

GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

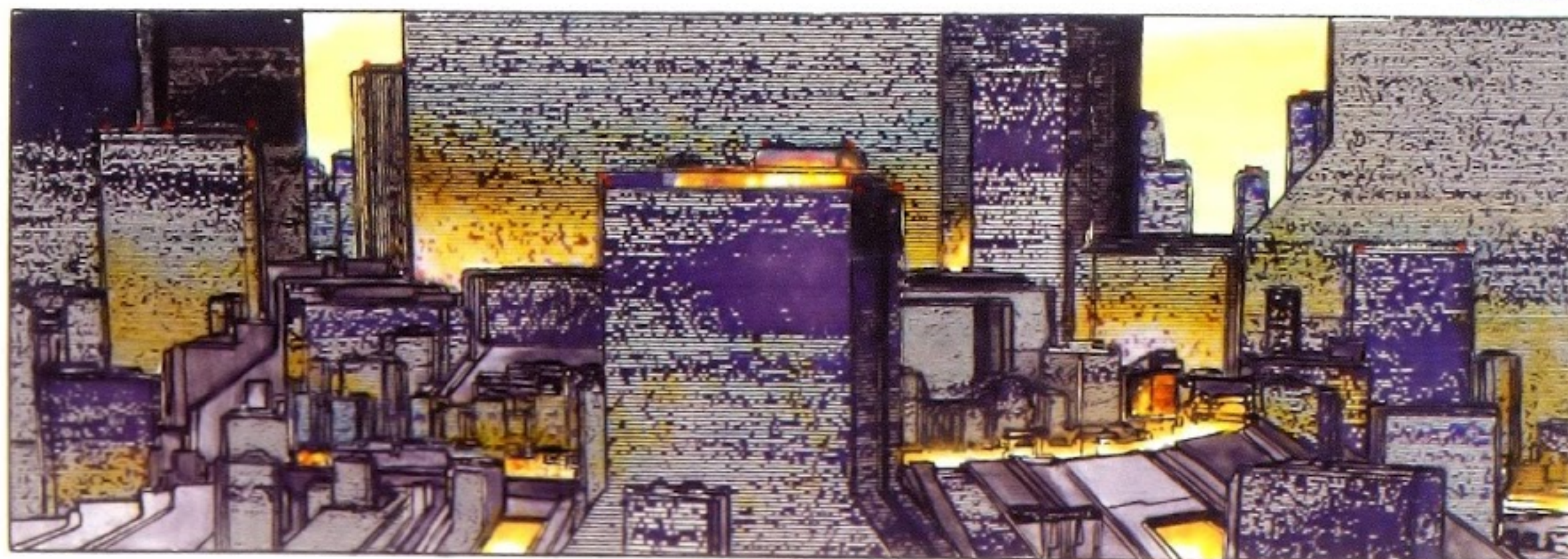


SHIROW MASAMUNE



It is the near future. The world has become highly information-intensive, with a vast corporate network covering the planet, electrons and light pulsing through it. But the nation-state and ethnic groups still survive.

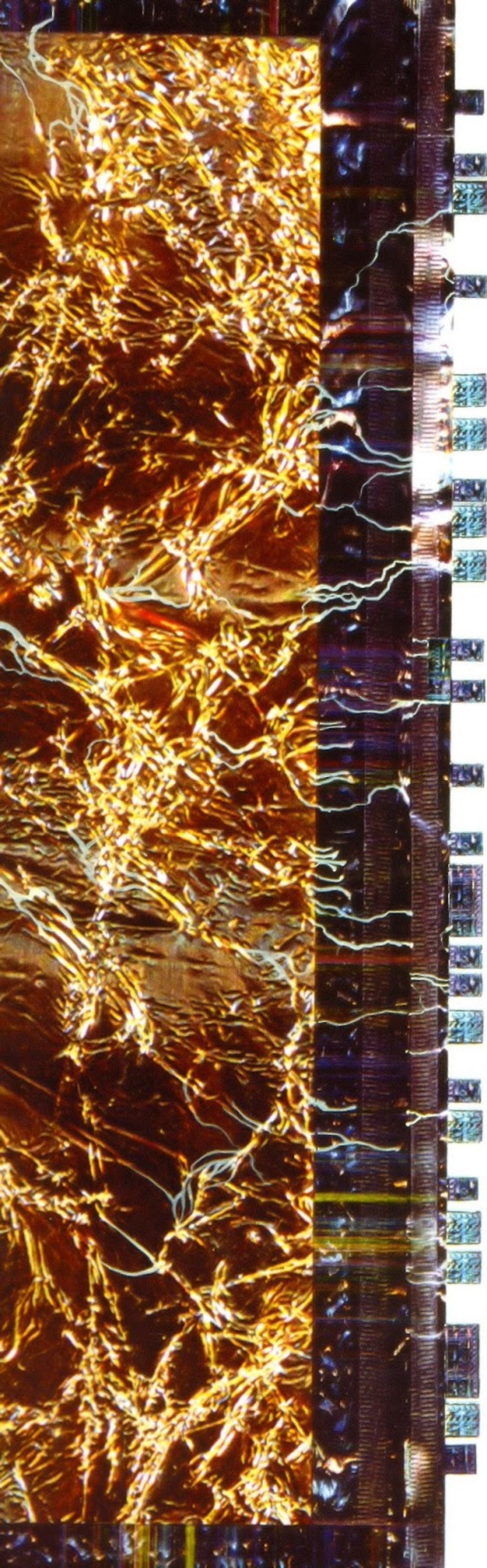
And on the edge of Asia, in a strange corporate conglomerate-state called "Japan"...



01

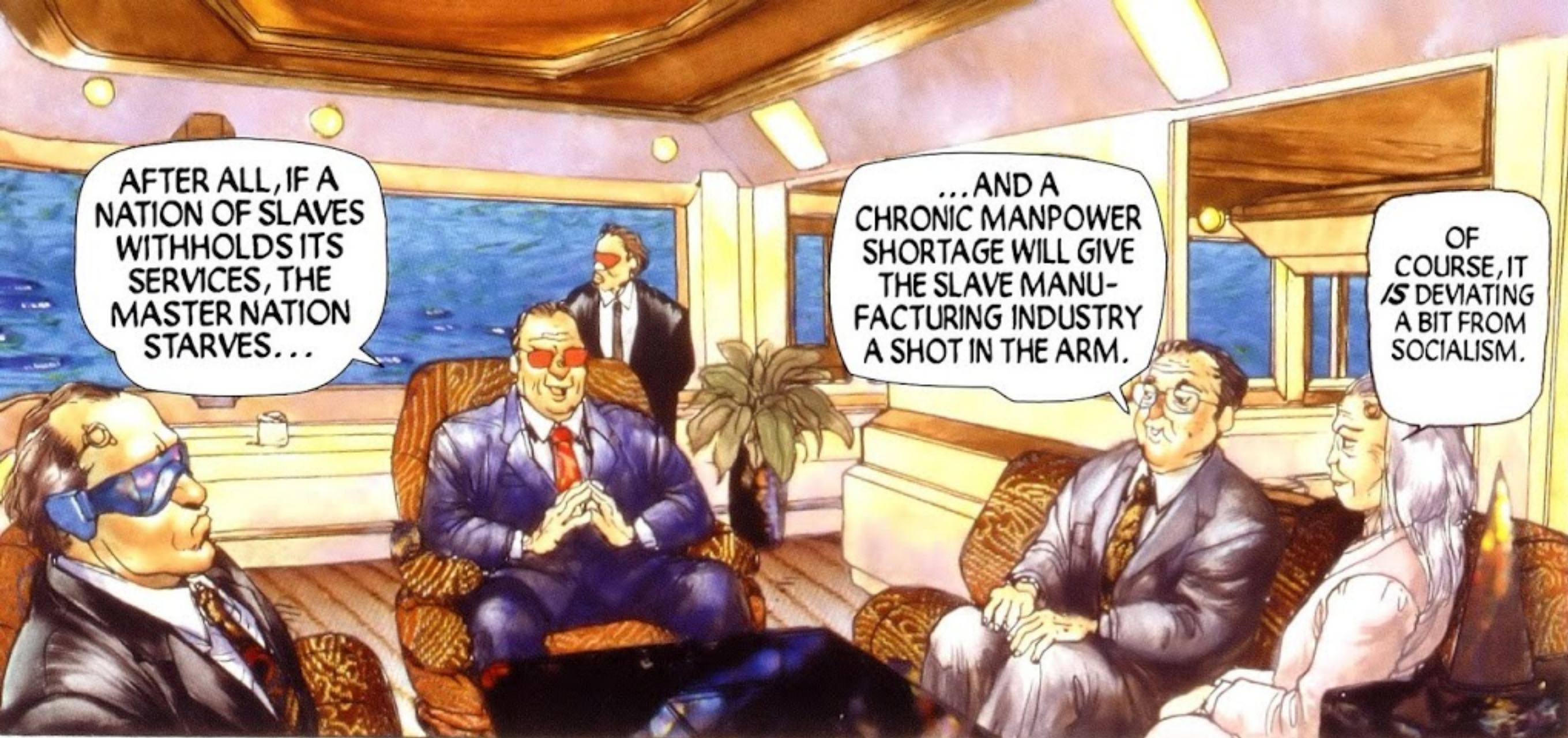
PROLOGUE

This is a photograph of a growth-type neurochip, created at Harima Science City in 1998 (enlarged 50,000 times). The cells are nearly dead from over-growth, and cracks in neuro-fibers can be observed throughout the chip. Neuro-fibers have grown all the way out to the chip terminals, which are made of a relative of polystyrene coated with galactose. The fibers have even warped the thin film base on which the terminals themselves are etched. In the same month that the chip was developed, vast capital corporations (largely media conglomerates) began to form a huge network in the medical world that used micro-machines as supplementary "cyber-brains." Cyberbrain technology thereafter began shifting to a micromachine base, and by the year 2028 large number of neurochips were in use in AI and robotics.



March 5, 2029. Newport City, a floating metropolis in Shinhama Prefecture.





AFTER ALL, IF A NATION OF SLAVES WITHHOLDS ITS SERVICES, THE MASTER NATION STARVES...

...AND A CHRONIC MANPOWER SHORTAGE WILL GIVE THE SLAVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY A SHOT IN THE ARM.

OF COURSE, IT ~~IS~~ DEVIATING A BIT FROM SOCIALISM.

I'M AMAZED AT YOUR COUNTRY... THE BRAINS CALL IT CAPITALIST, BUT IT'S REALLY AN IDEAL SOCIALIST STATE, ISN'T IT...?

LABOR CONDITIONS JUST DON'T WORK OUT THAT WAY... THE BRAINS CAN BE MANIPULATED WHEN NECESSARY WITH AN ALLOTMENT OF BLOOD...

WHERE THE HELL'S UNIT 2 ?!



THINK IT'S A TERRORIST BOMBING ?

C'MON, FOLKS-- QUIETLY AND QUICKLY!

MUST BE THE UNION AGAIN...

HEY, COME ON.

CITIZEN EVACUATION COMPLETED, SIR!

THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF NOISE AROUND HERE. PRESSURE'S AWFUL HIGH, TOO...

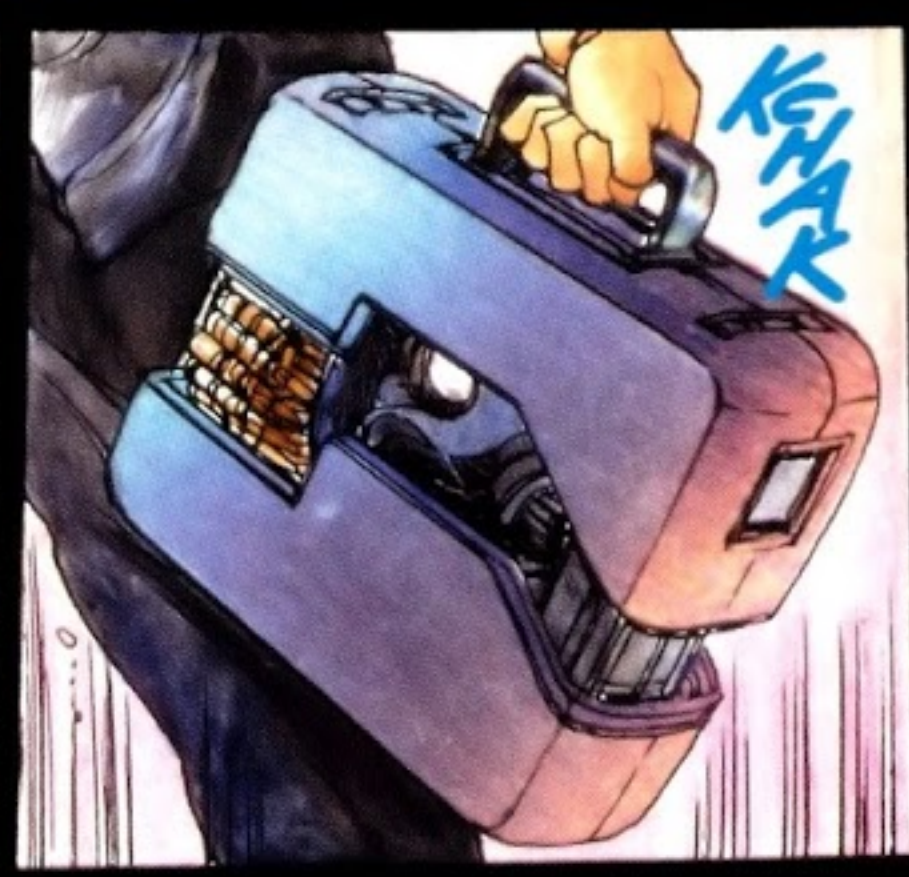
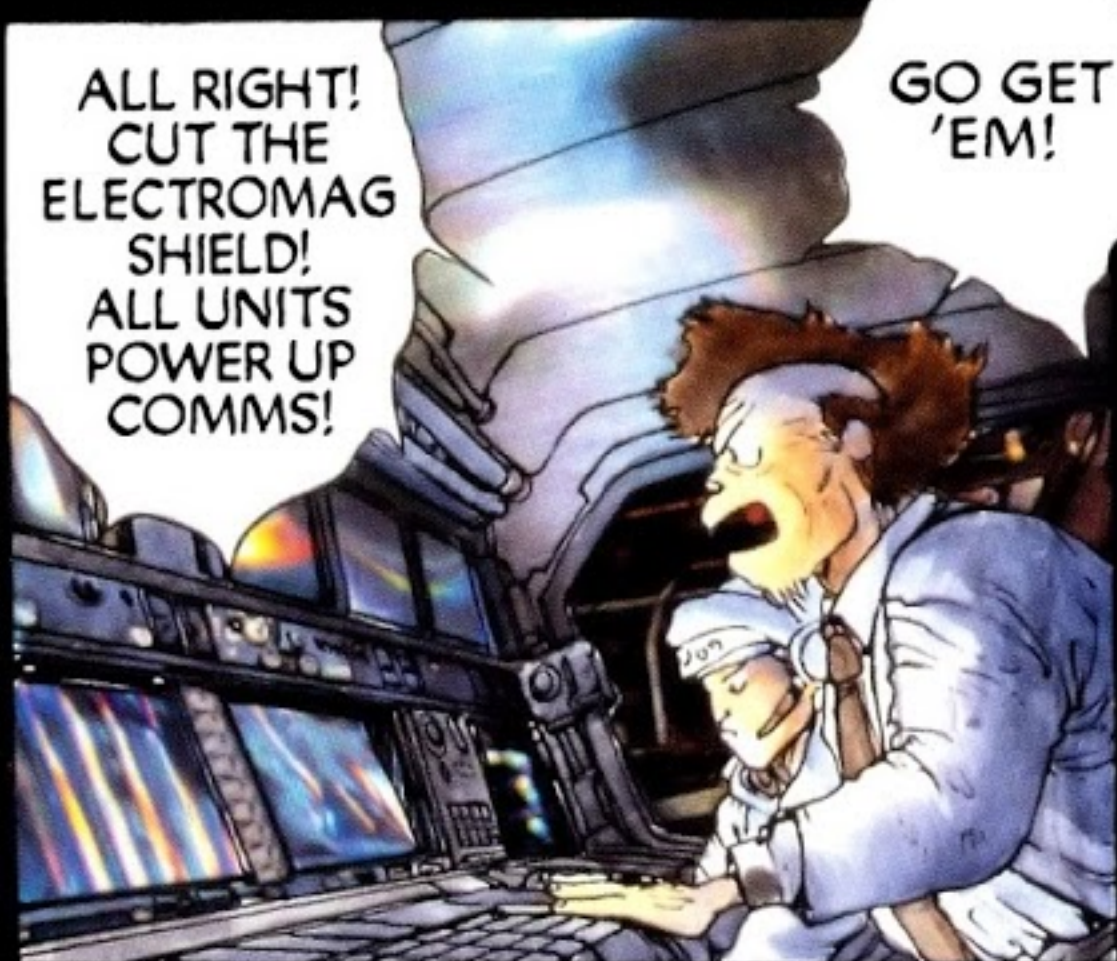
MAN, WE GOT SERIOUS HERO GOIN' ON!

MAJOR... SECURITY'S ALL READY TO GO...



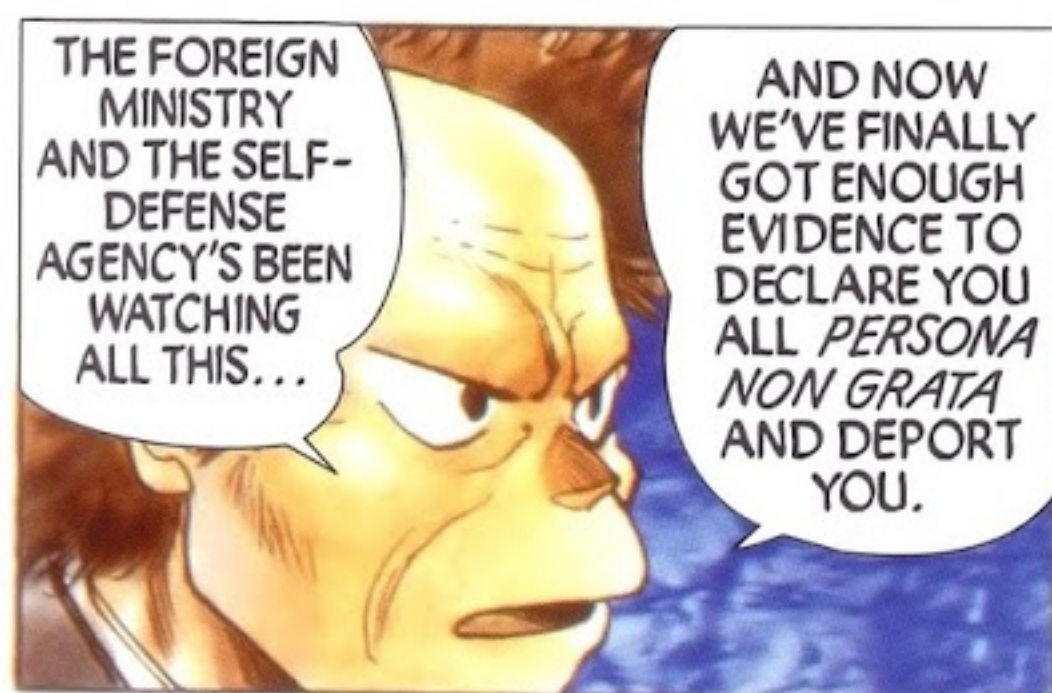
I HEAR YOU, I HEAR YOU...

LEAVE THE DAMN CODE ENCRYPTION UP TO THE AI AND THE WHOLE WORLD'LL HEAR US...





THE POLICE HAVE THEIR TARGET SURROUNDED, BUT IF THEY FIRE THEY'LL HIT THEIR COMRADES. I DON'T RECOMMEND TRYING THIS, DEAR READERS...

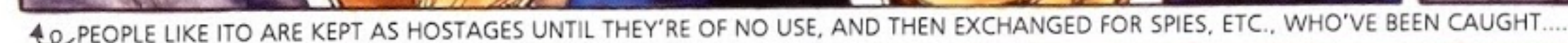


AND NOW WE'VE FINALLY GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DECLARE YOU ALL *PERSONA NON GRATA* AND DEPORT YOU.

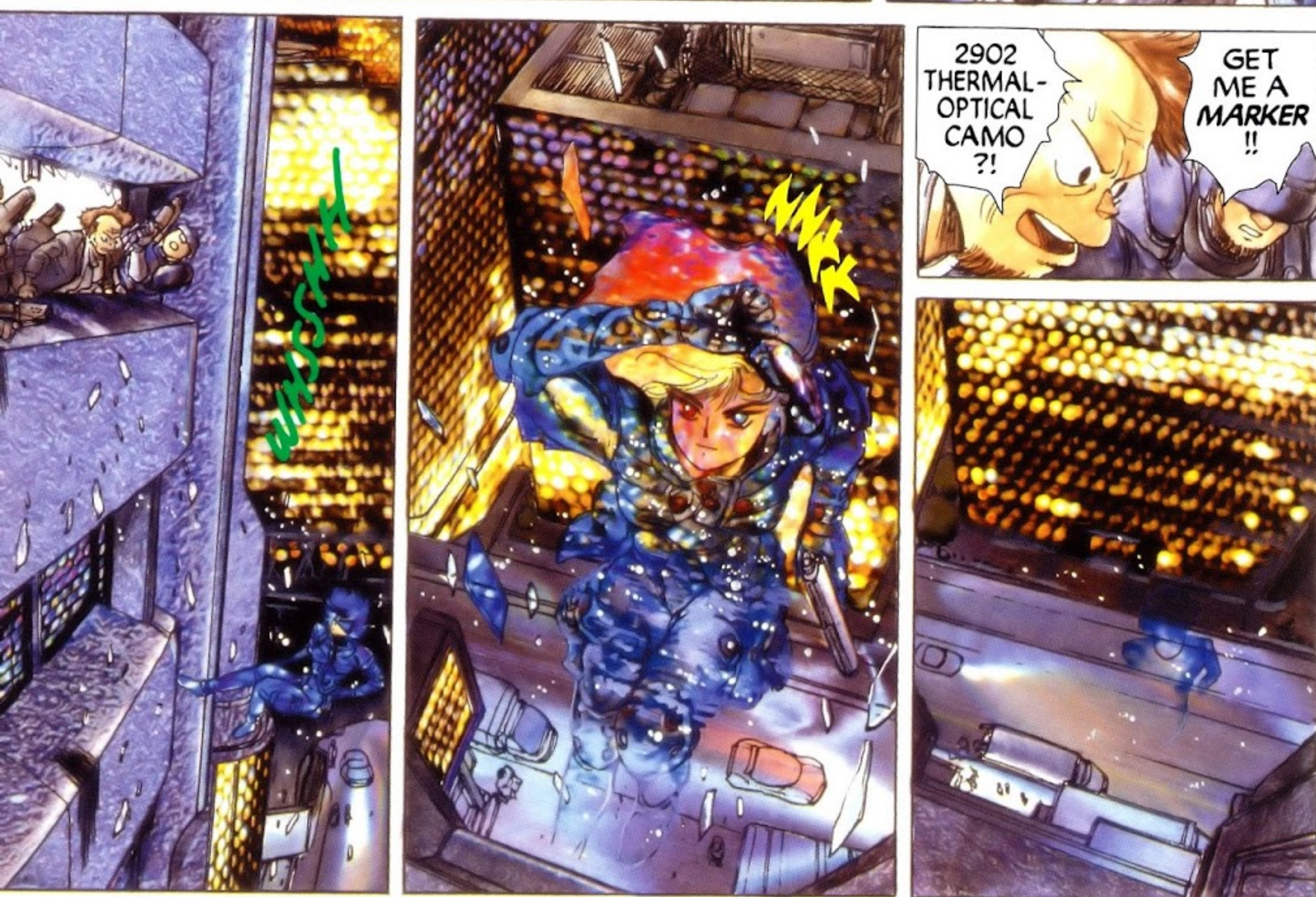
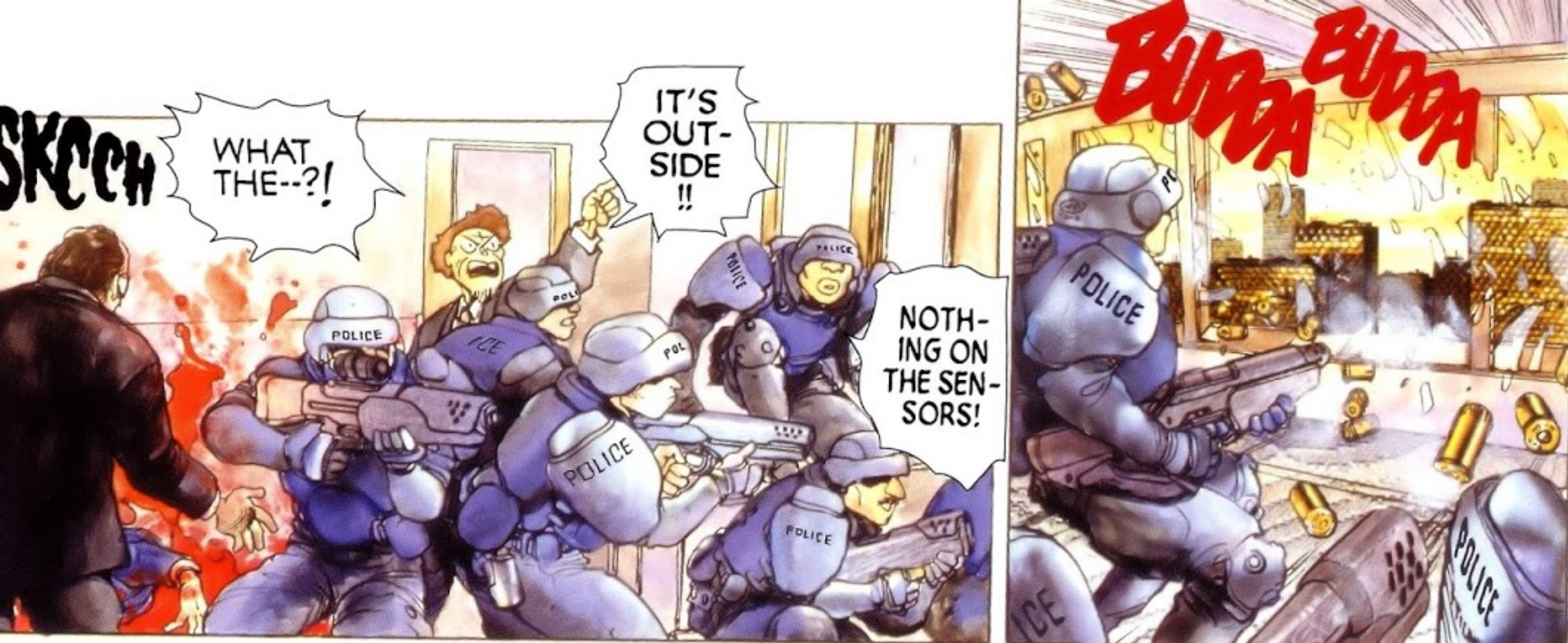
AND AS FOR MR. ITO, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE YOU ATTEND A LITTLE HEARING.

WE'LL NEED YOU, SIR, TO TESTIFY IN DETAIL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF OUR LATE PRIME MINISTER AND ON WHO LEAKED THE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CONFERENCE SITE.





DELAYED-FUSE, SOFT-HEAD EXPLOSIVE SHELLS



2902 REFERS TO A MODIFIED MODEL BUILT IN THE YEAR 2029.

The following day, the woman (a female model cyborg) was seated in the office of the Minister of Internal Affairs



... with an assassination order issued by the former prime minister.

The only thing certain was that there had been a need to resolve a crisis and that the woman (or women) known as **Major Motoko Kusanagi** (obviously an alias) was extremely talented.

02

S U P E R

SPARTAN

10. 4. 2029



©1989 4
by MASAMUNE
SHIROW



breep beep

TIME TO
GET TO
WORK,
MAJOR.

I WANT
YOU TO
JOIN *SUISEN*
IN SOUTH
SHINHAMA,
WARD 4,
AND STAND
BY.



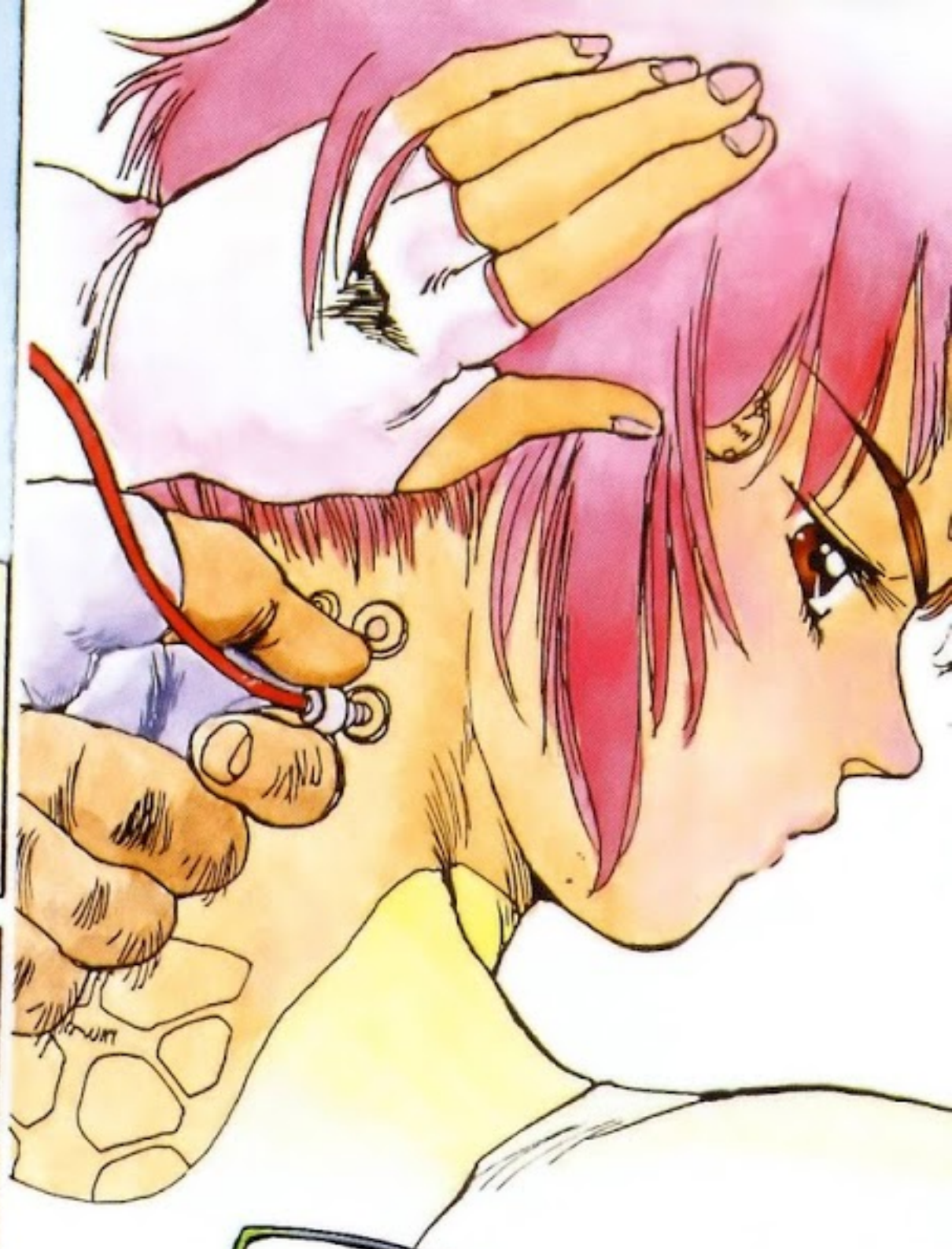
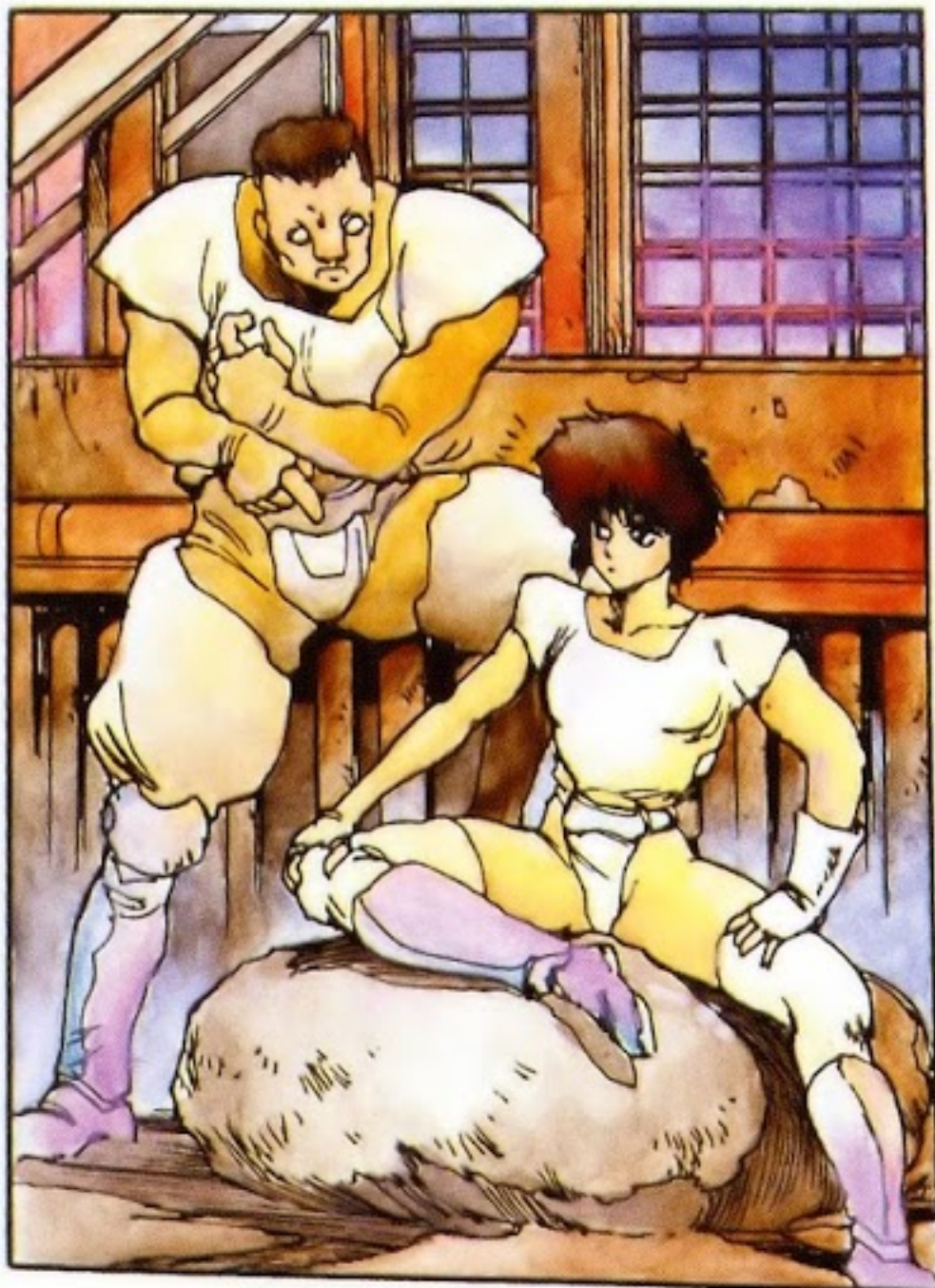
"WORK."
?!
WHAT'S
THAT?

THE BUDGET YOU
IDIOTS ASKED FOR
PASSED, SO GET
YOUR BUTTS
IN GEAR!

HEY,
FUCHI-
KOMA!
GOT THE CONFIR-
MATION
?

*N-NO,
MA'AM!*

WELL
THEN,
GET ON
WITH IT!



HAVE-REPORT-
THAT-BUDGET-
HAS-PASSED-
IN-327TH-
SESSION-OF-
NATIONAL-
COUNCIL.
NOW-
RECONFIRMING.

OKAY!
OUR ROUND-
THE-CLOCK
CHERRY
BLOSSOM
VIEWING
PARTY'S
OVER!

NOW I'M
GONNA TAKE
YOU GUYS
TO A STRIP
JOINT!

AW, RATS!

VREEE *kchak* *KSSHH*

VREEE

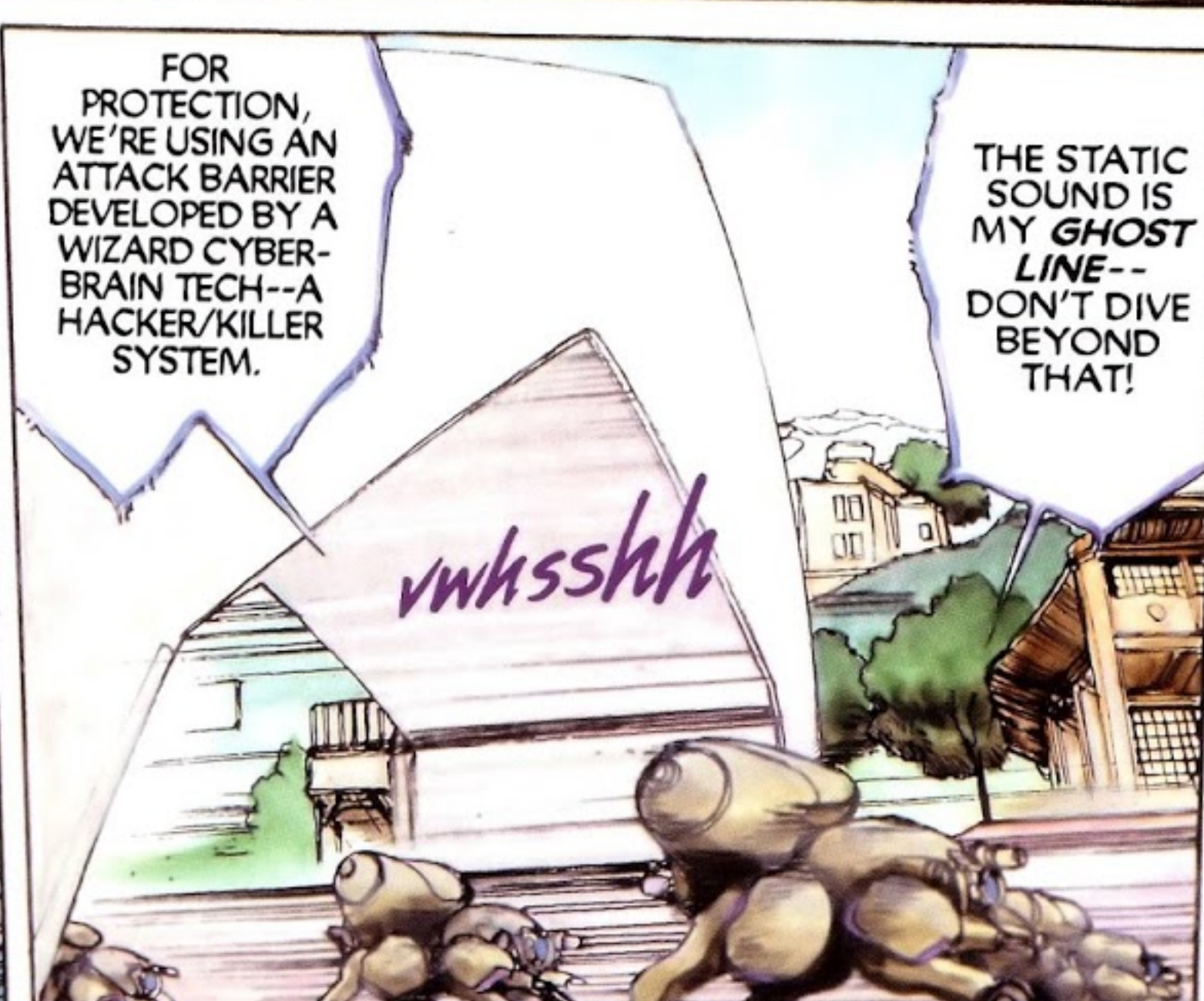
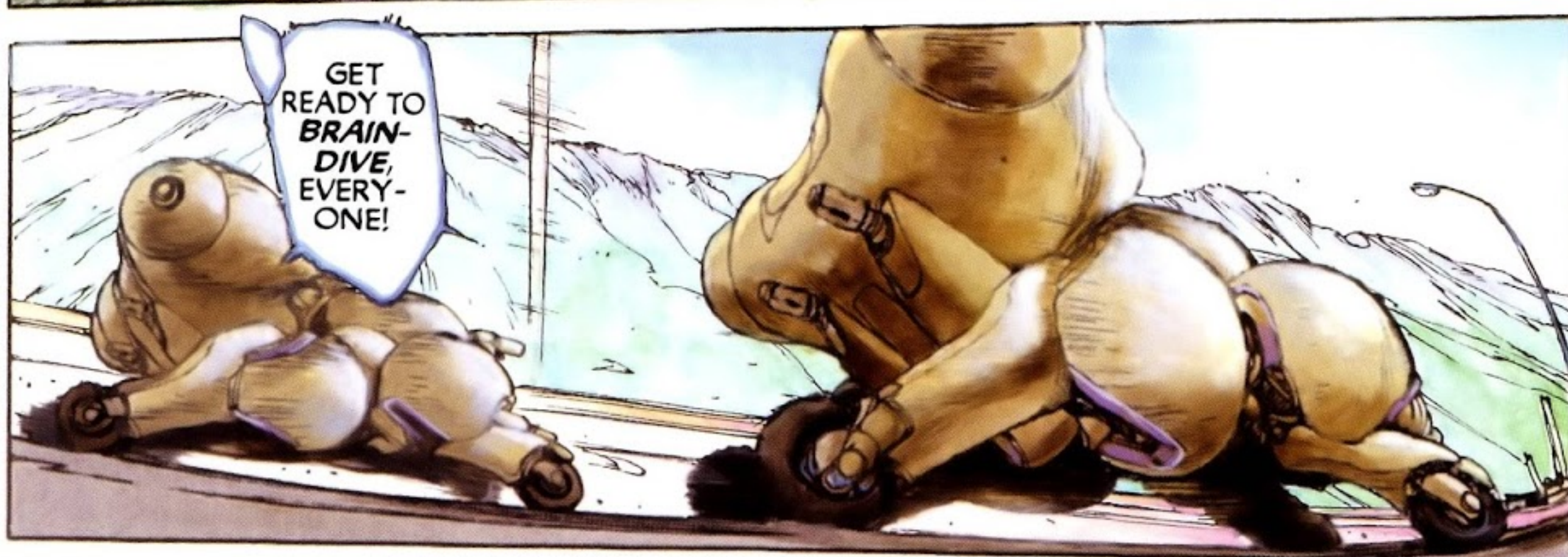
CRREEE

VRMM **BRMMM** **VREEE**

THANK
GOD... I
WAS BORED
TO DEATH!

SHOULD'VE
WARMED
UP A
BIT...

YEAH



*MONITORED



either the self-defense forces or the public security bureau...

the minister of internal affairs says, global network...

returning to the self-defense forces and...

the public security bureau...

what? you say you won't work unless there's a budget for the formation of an international anti-terrorism unit? contribute to the establishment of the thousand-year kingdom plan...



DAMN, THERE'S A LOT OF NOISE IN YOUR BRAIN, MAJOR...

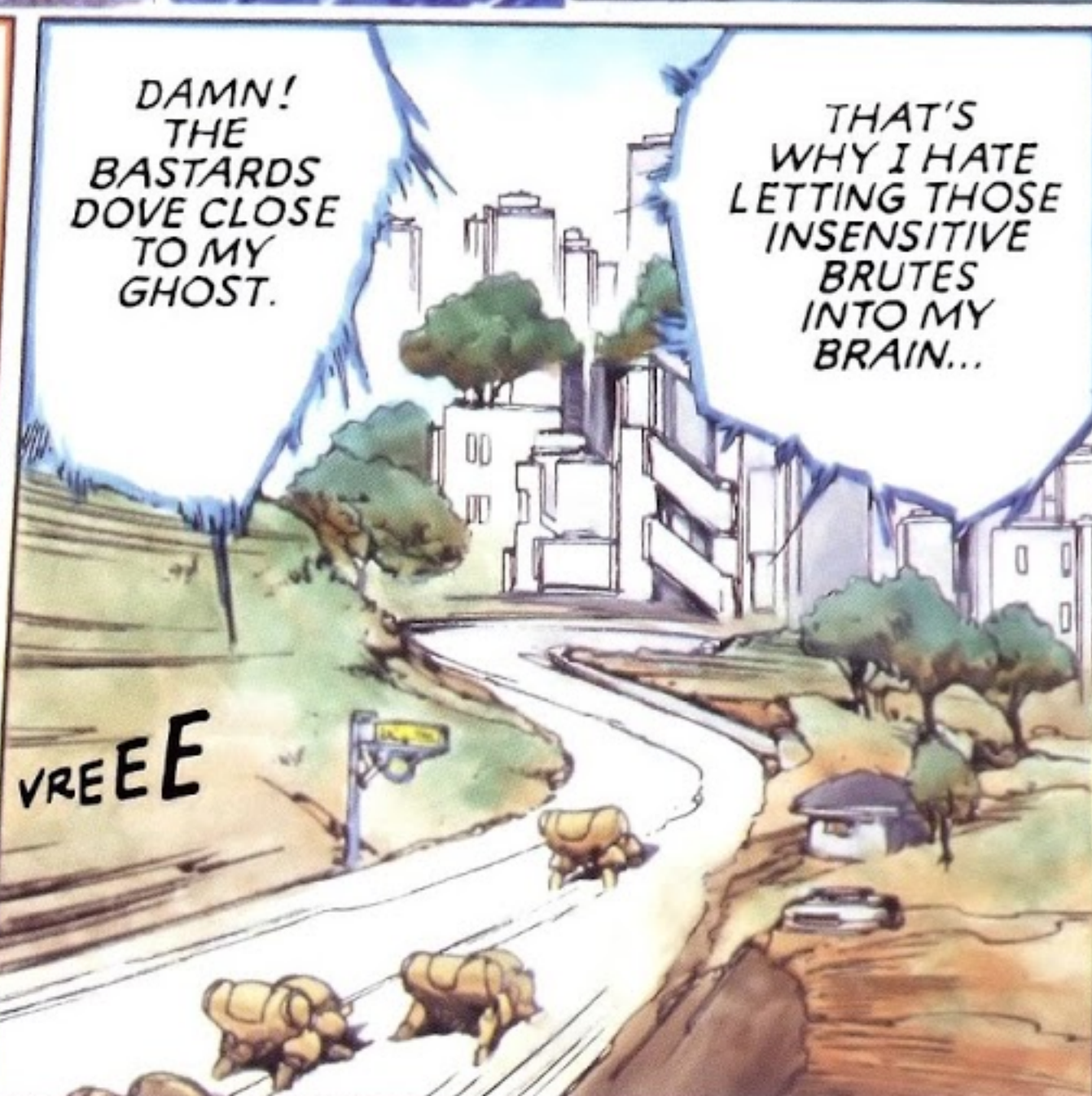
HEY, I'M ON MY PERIOD!

MAJOR, YOUR PROSTHETIC HAND HURTS A BIT, DOESN'T IT...

WHAT'S THIS BITTER TASTE... YOU TAKING A TRANQUILIZER?



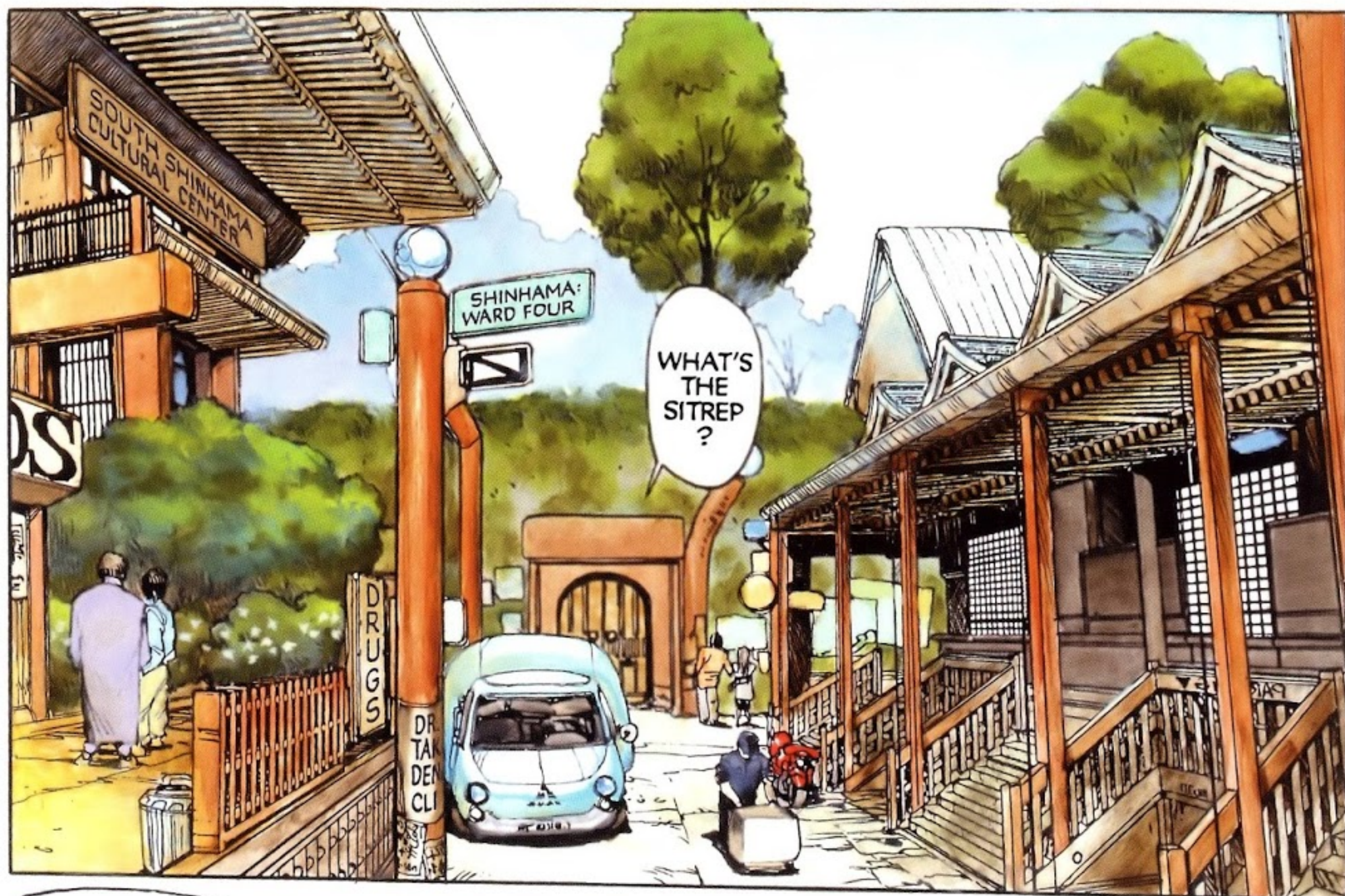
OKAY, GUYS, YOU GOT YOUR DATA-NOW, ANYBODY NOT CLEARED OUT IN TWO SECONDS GETS BRAIN-BURNED!



DAMN! THE BASTARDS DOVE CLOSE TO MY GHOST.

THAT'S WHY I HATE LETTING THOSE INSENSITIVE BRUTES INTO MY BRAIN...

VREEE





WELL THEN, YOU DON'T NEED US...

SEE YA LATER...

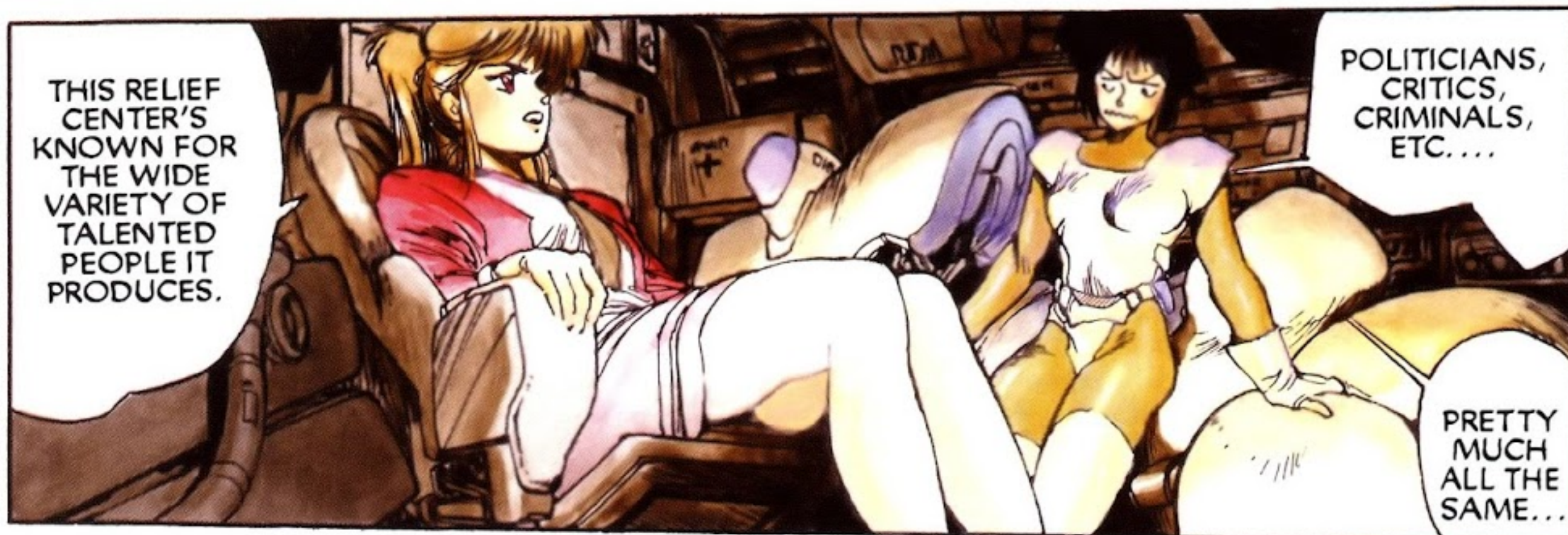


BUT THEY'VE GOT A **GHOST CONTROLLER**, MAJOR-- A BRAIN WASHER.

HC-25



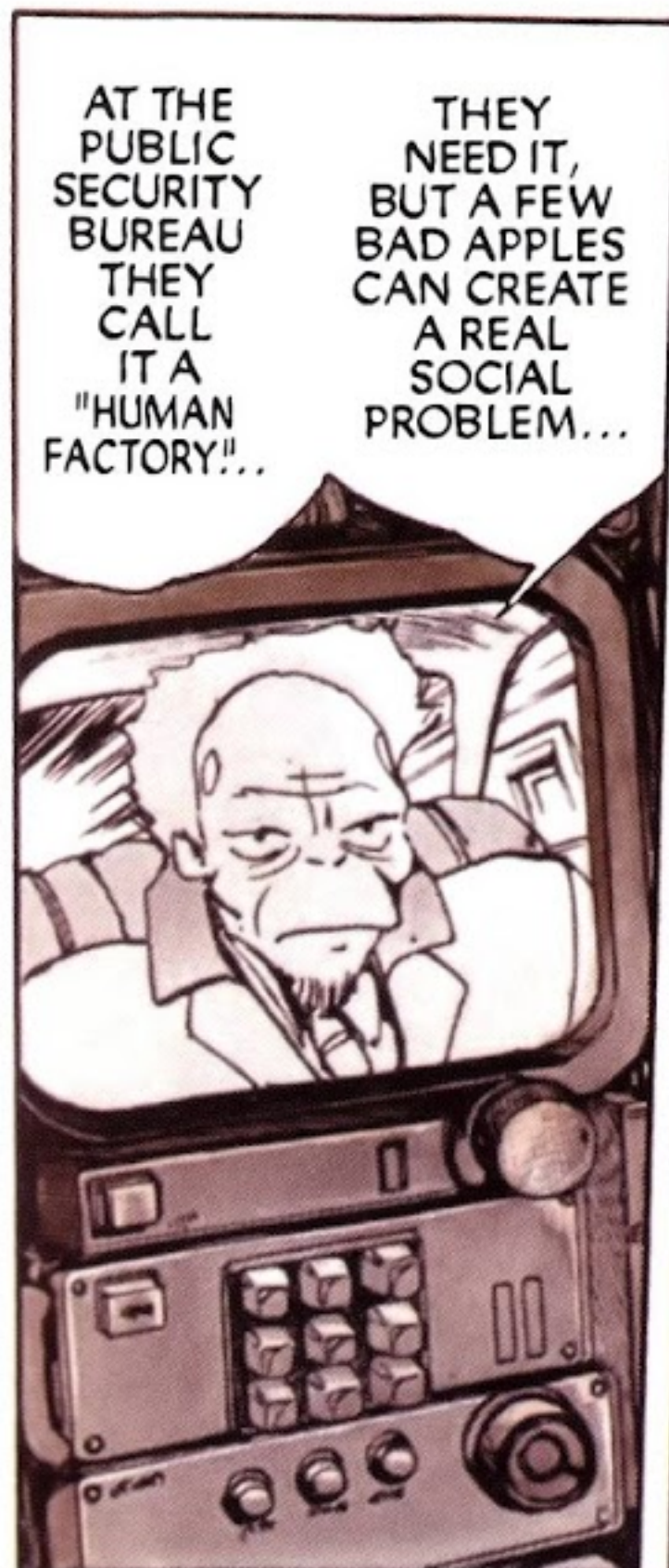
HOW ANACHRONISTIC...!



THIS RELIEF CENTER'S KNOWN FOR THE WIDE VARIETY OF TALENTED PEOPLE IT PRODUCES.

POLITICIANS, CRITICS, CRIMINALS, ETC....

PRETTY MUCH ALL THE SAME...

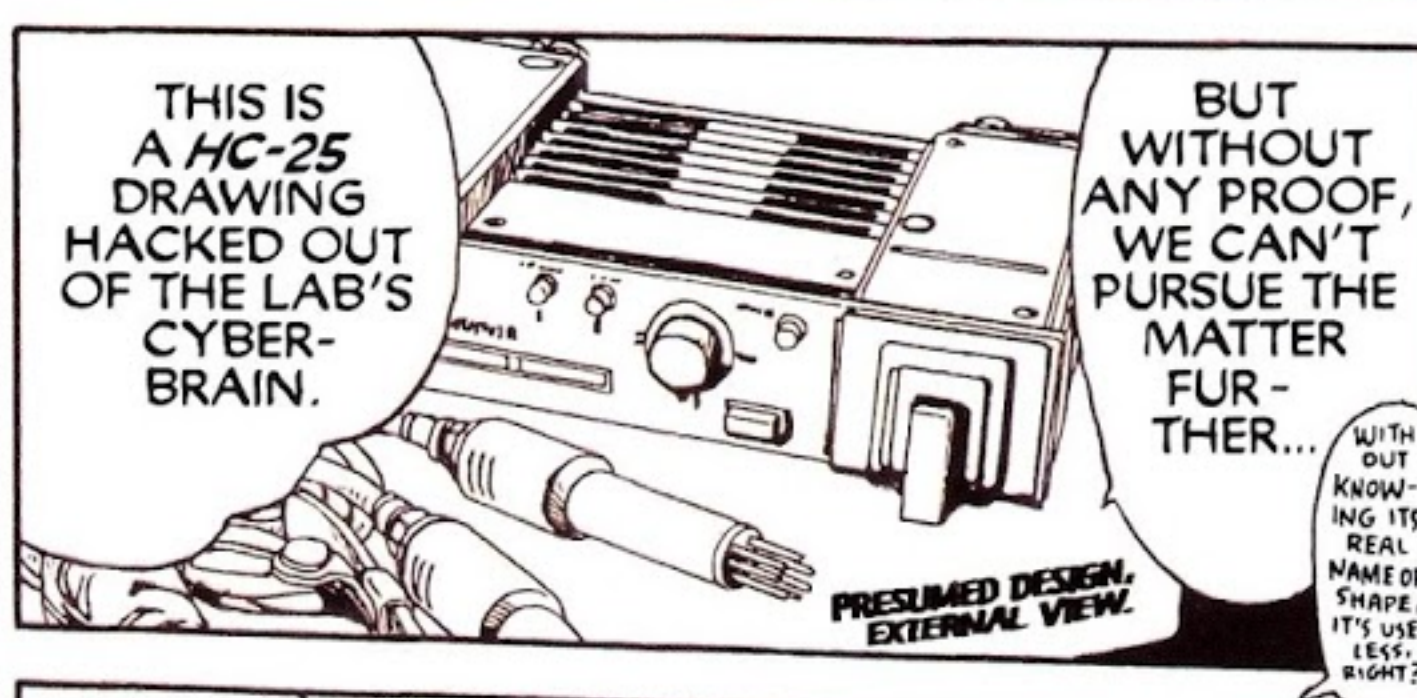


AT THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU THEY CALL IT A "HUMAN FACTORY!"

THEY NEED IT, BUT A FEW BAD APPLES CAN CREATE A REAL SOCIAL PROBLEM...



HAH... YOU MEAN THE BAD APPLES ARE AFRAID OF BAD APPLES?



THIS IS A **HC-25** DRAWING HACKED OUT OF THE LAB'S CYBER-BRAIN.

BUT WITHOUT ANY PROOF, WE CAN'T PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER...

WITH OUT KNOWING ITS REAL NAME OR SHAPE, IT'S USELESS, RIGHT?



"B&E"...?

"WET-WORK"...?

beep beep

NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT !!



THE GOAL
HERE IS TO
BE ABLE TO
TAKE CARE
OF THE
PROBLEM
AND TO
"ARREST"
THEM IF
NEED
BE...

TO
"OFFICIALLY"
DO THAT
WITHOUT
ANY
EVIDENCE
OR AN
ARREST
WARRANT?

SHIK

b-beep



SO
WHY
DO THEY
HAVE
IT
HERE...?

THEY'VE
TRIED TO
GET A
HACKER
IN AND
FAILED,
EH?

TOO-
MUCH-
FOR-
ME...



DO YOU
WANT TO
SYNCHRO-
DIVE AND
CHECK?



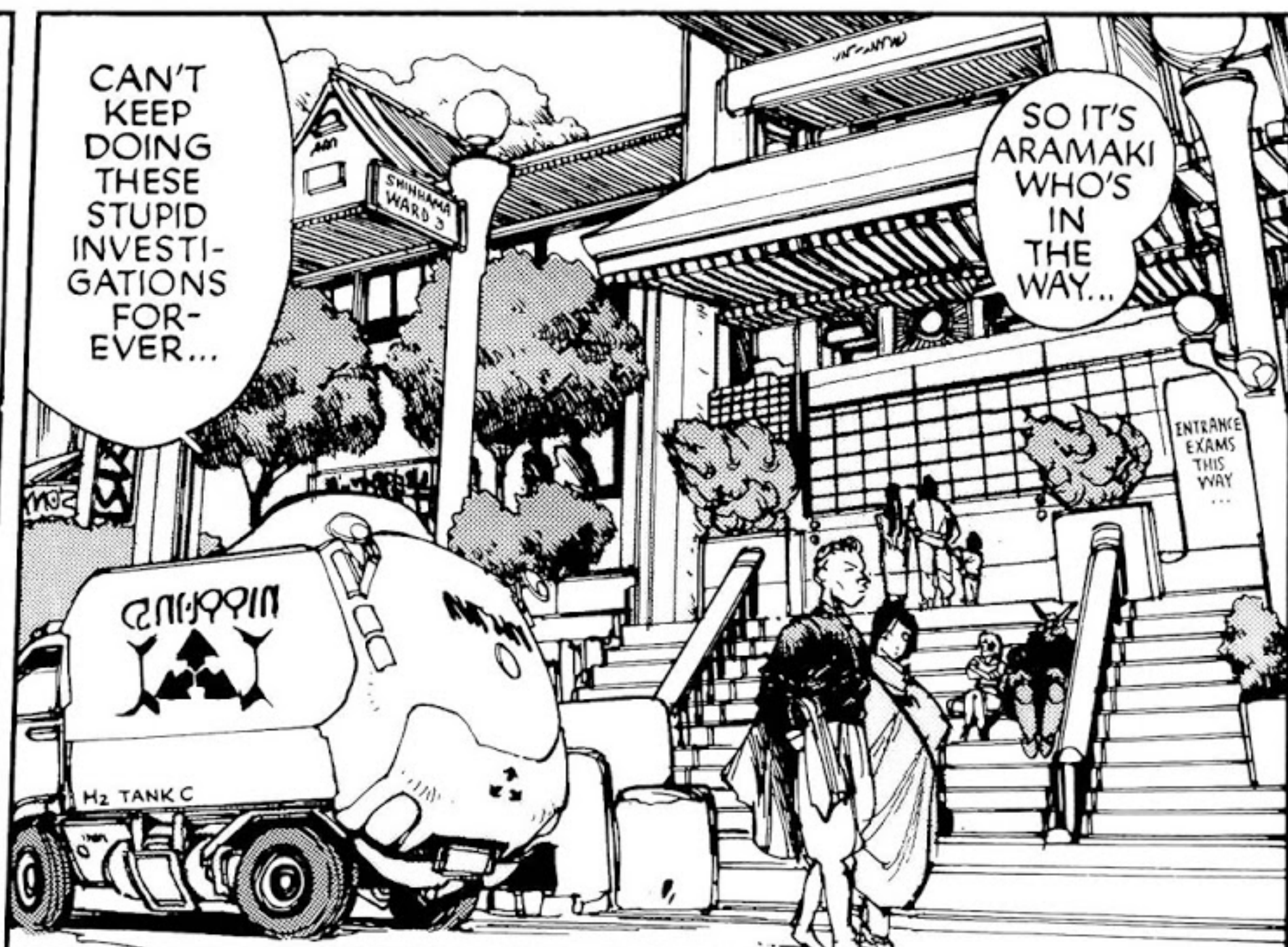
THE CENTRAL
CYBER-BRAIN
BARRIER HERE
IS A COMPLEX
MAZE OF
SIMULATED
EXPERIENCES,
SO THEY
COULDN'T
INFILTRATE IT,
BUT THEY
DEFINITELY
GOT A HIT.

THE MANAGER
OF THE DUPLICATE
CODE KEY FOR THE
LAB'S CENTRAL
CYBERBRAIN IS
FROM HERE,
AFTER ALL...

'COURSE
HE'S
MISSING
NOW,
THOUGH.

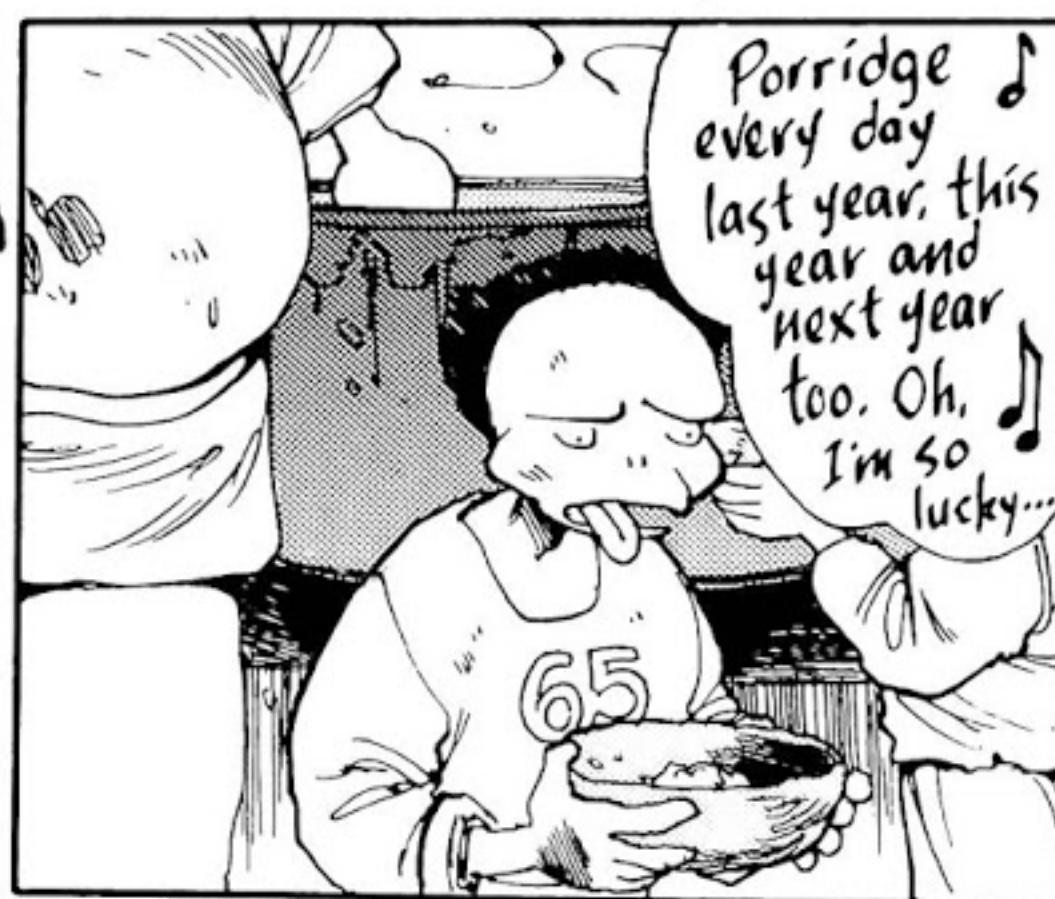


DAMN THAT
ARAMAKI-- HE'S
TRYING TO FORCE
US INTO AN
ATTACK BASED
ON FALSE INTEL,
AND THEN IF
THERE'S A LAW-
SUIT HE'LL
HANG ME OUT
TO DRY...

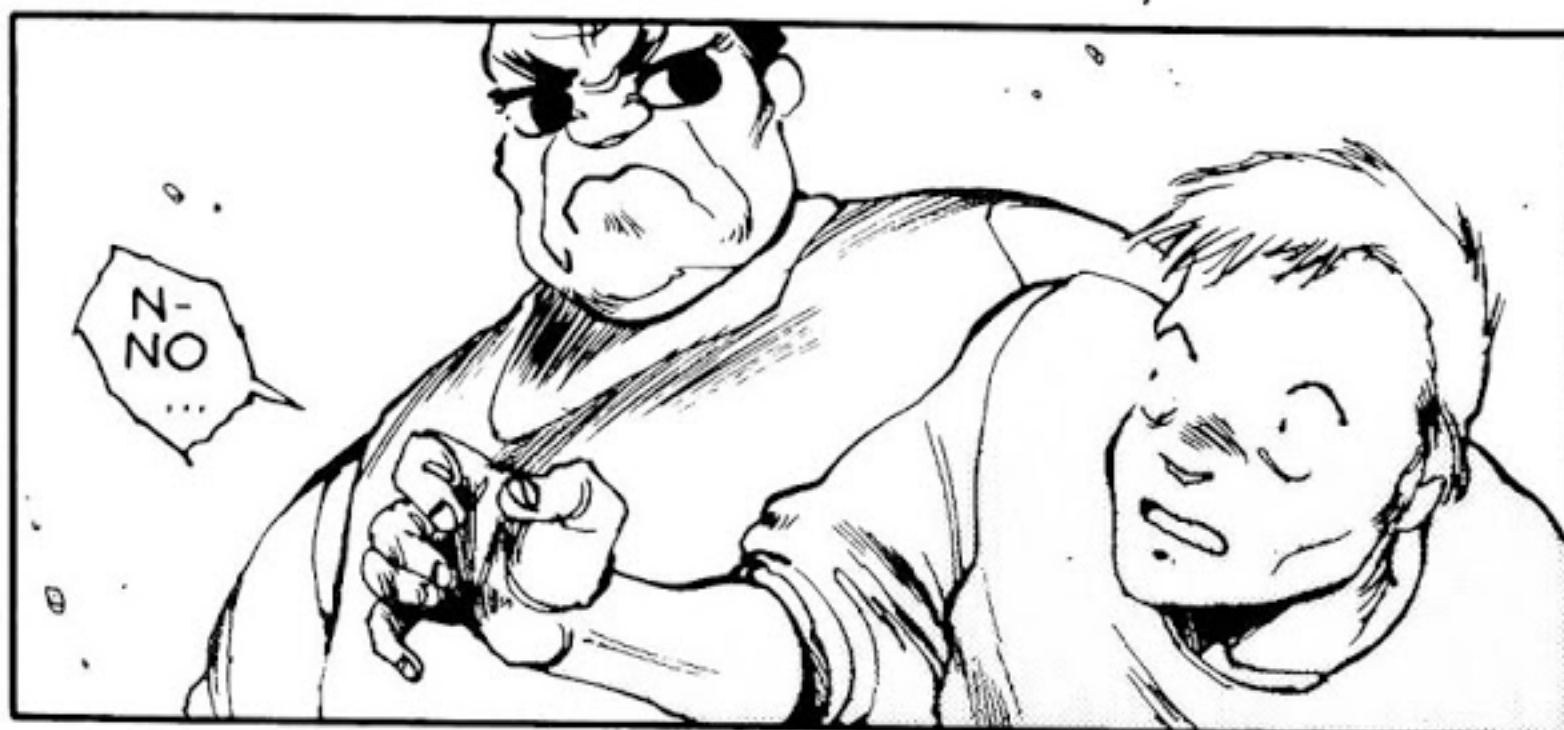
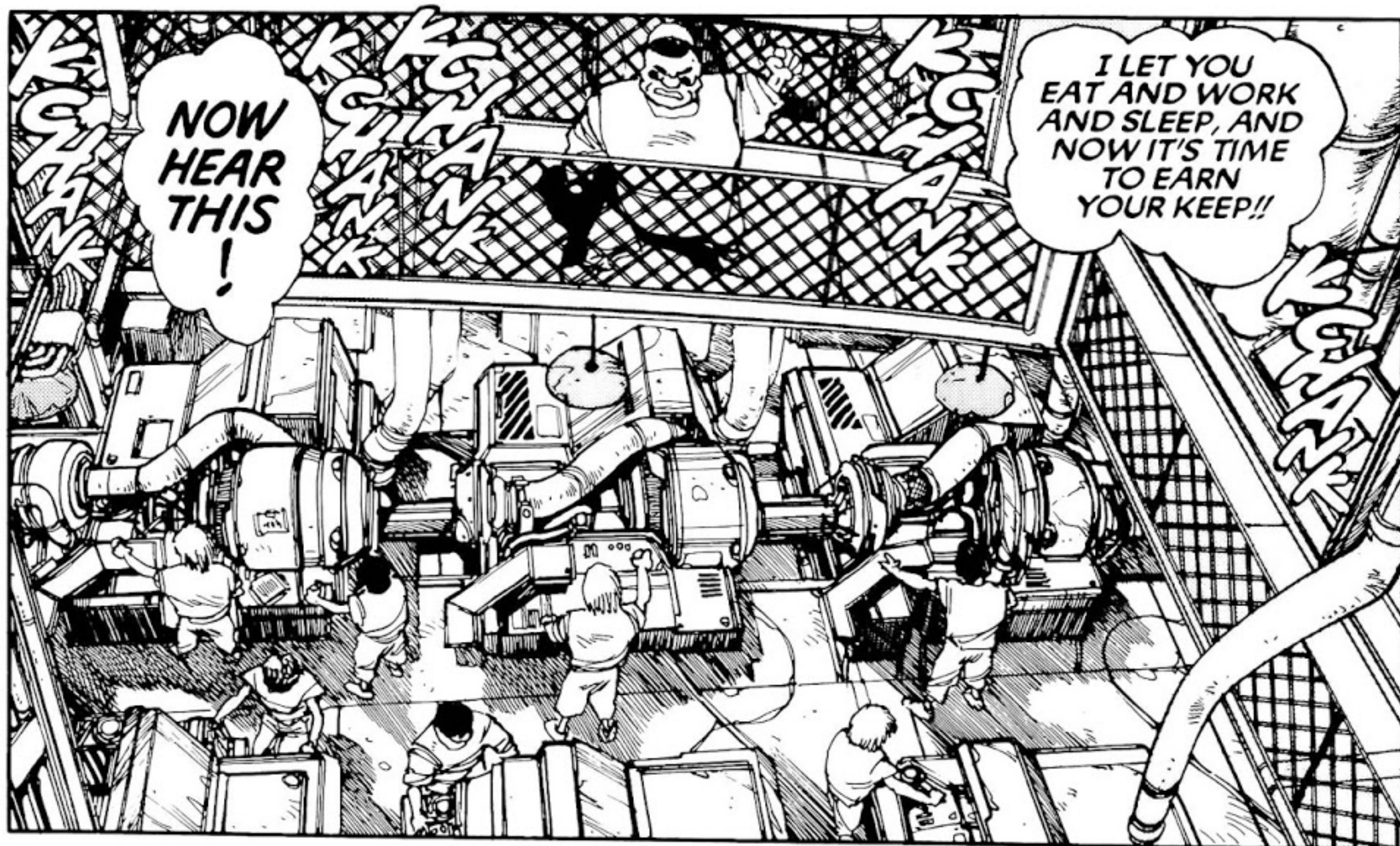


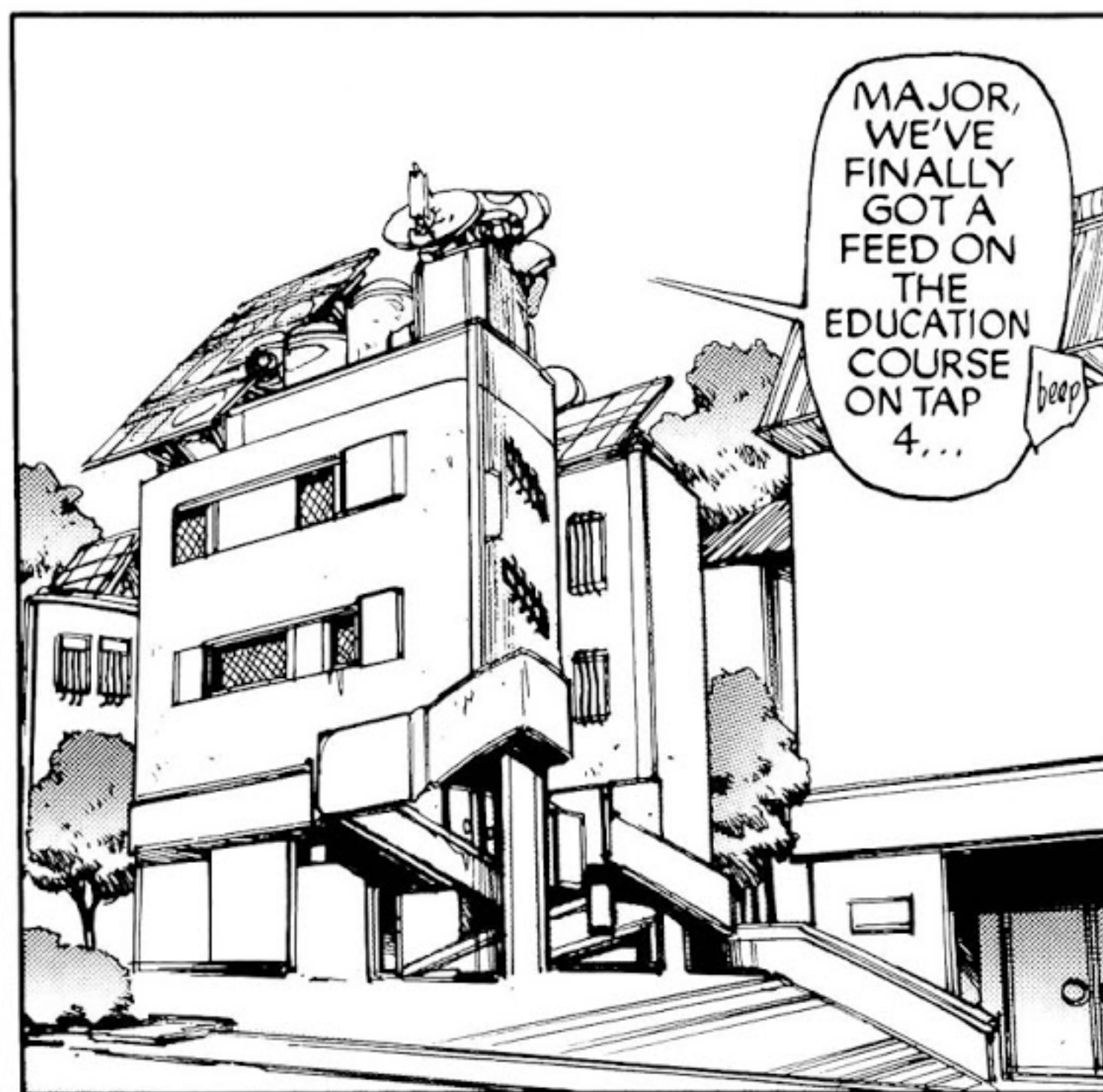
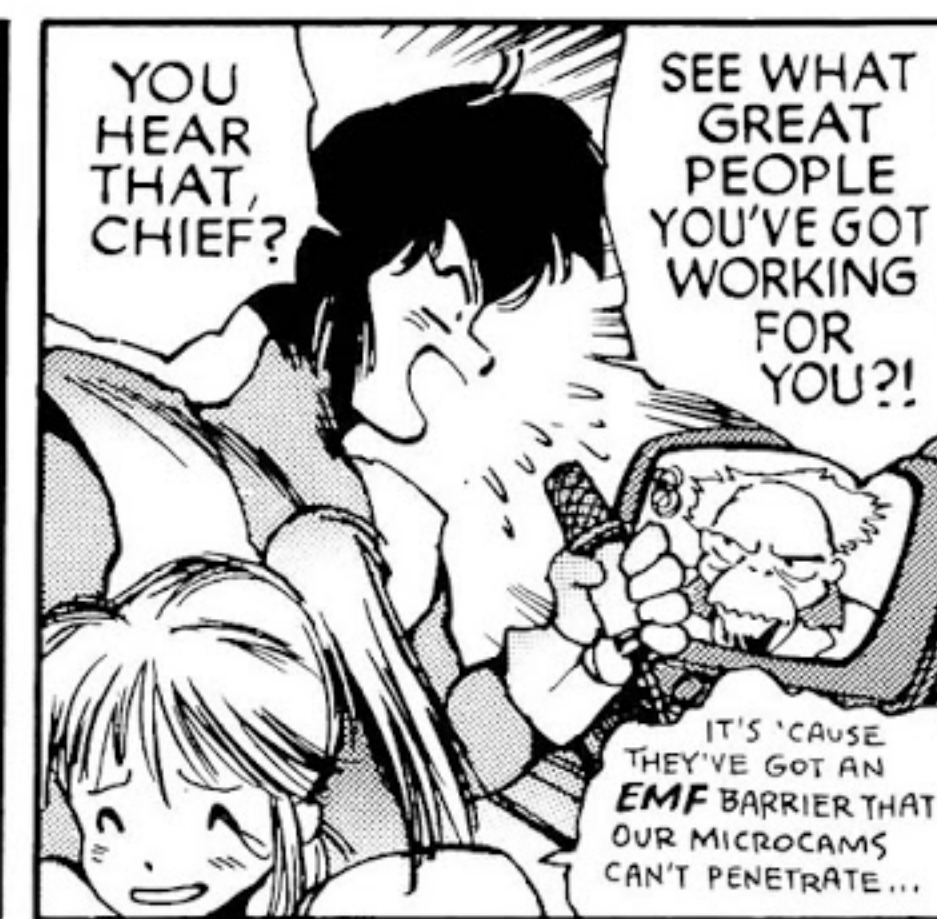
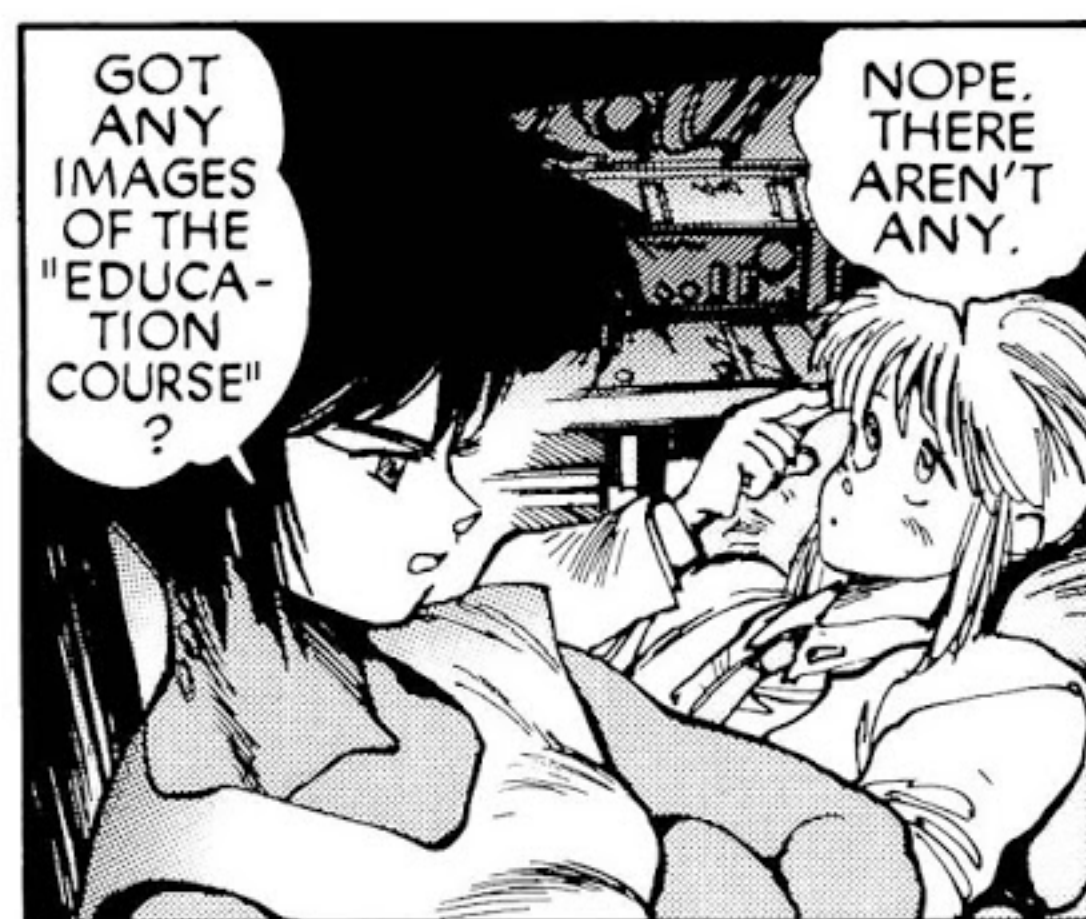
CAN'T
KEEP
DOING
THESE
STUPID
INVESTIGATIONS
FOR-
EVER...

SO IT'S
ARAMAKI
WHO'S
IN
THE
WAY...

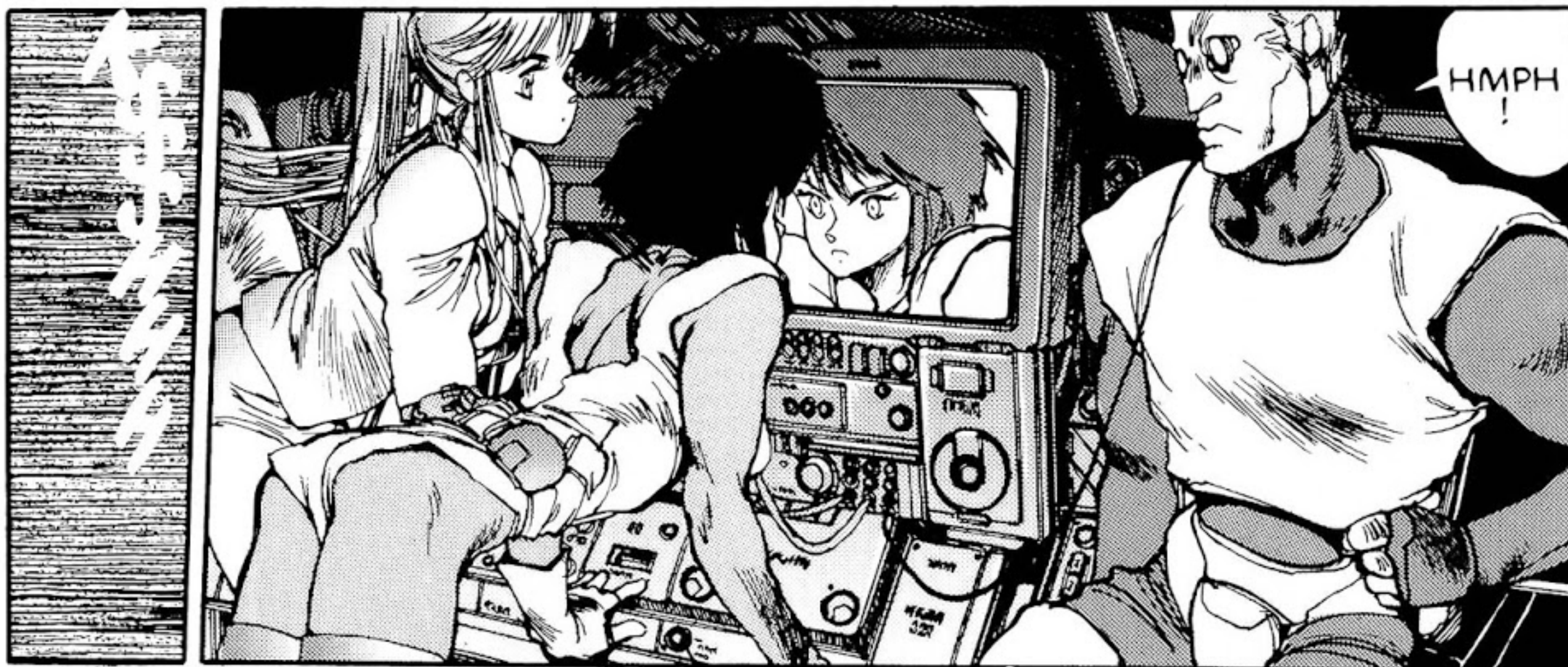


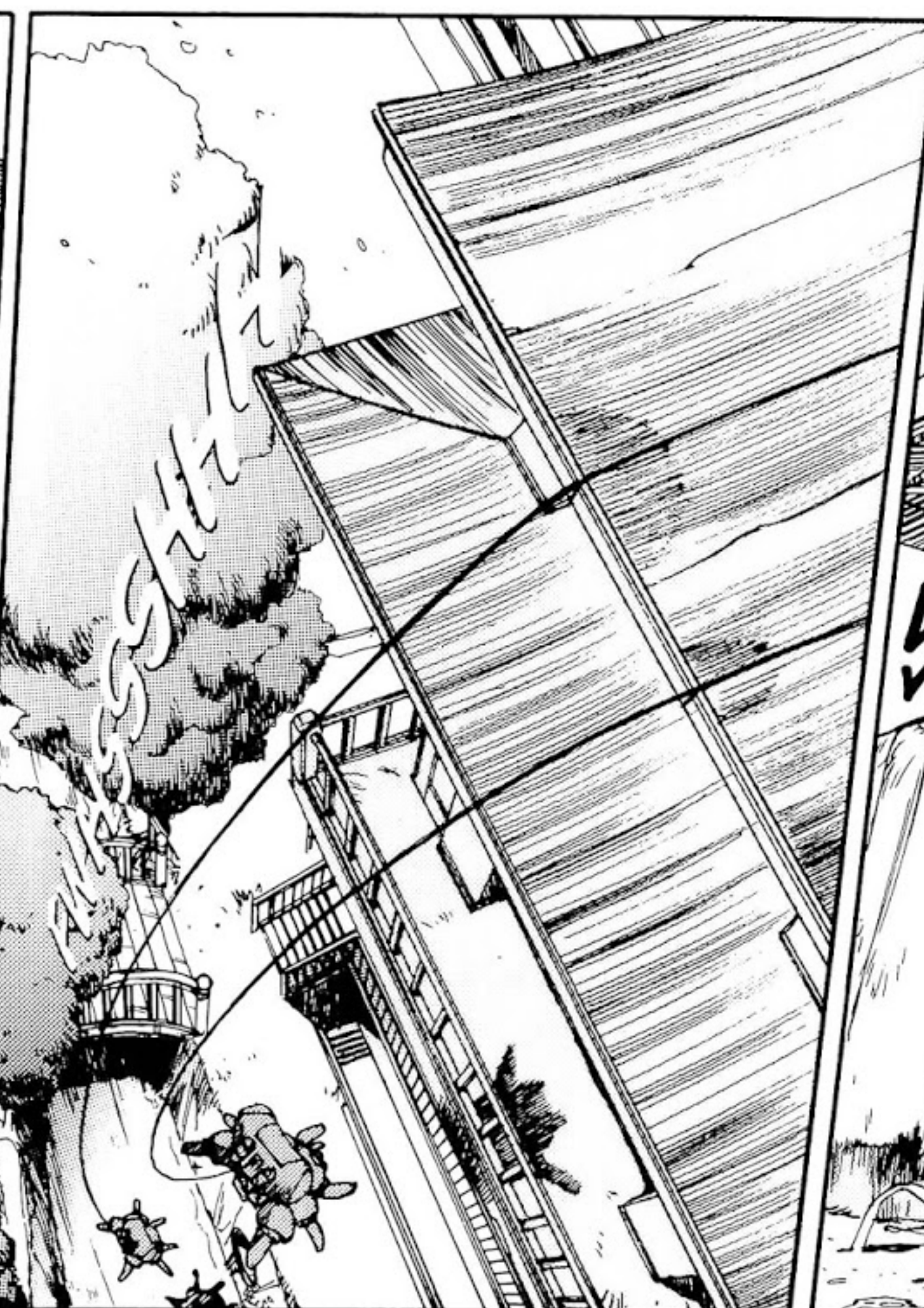


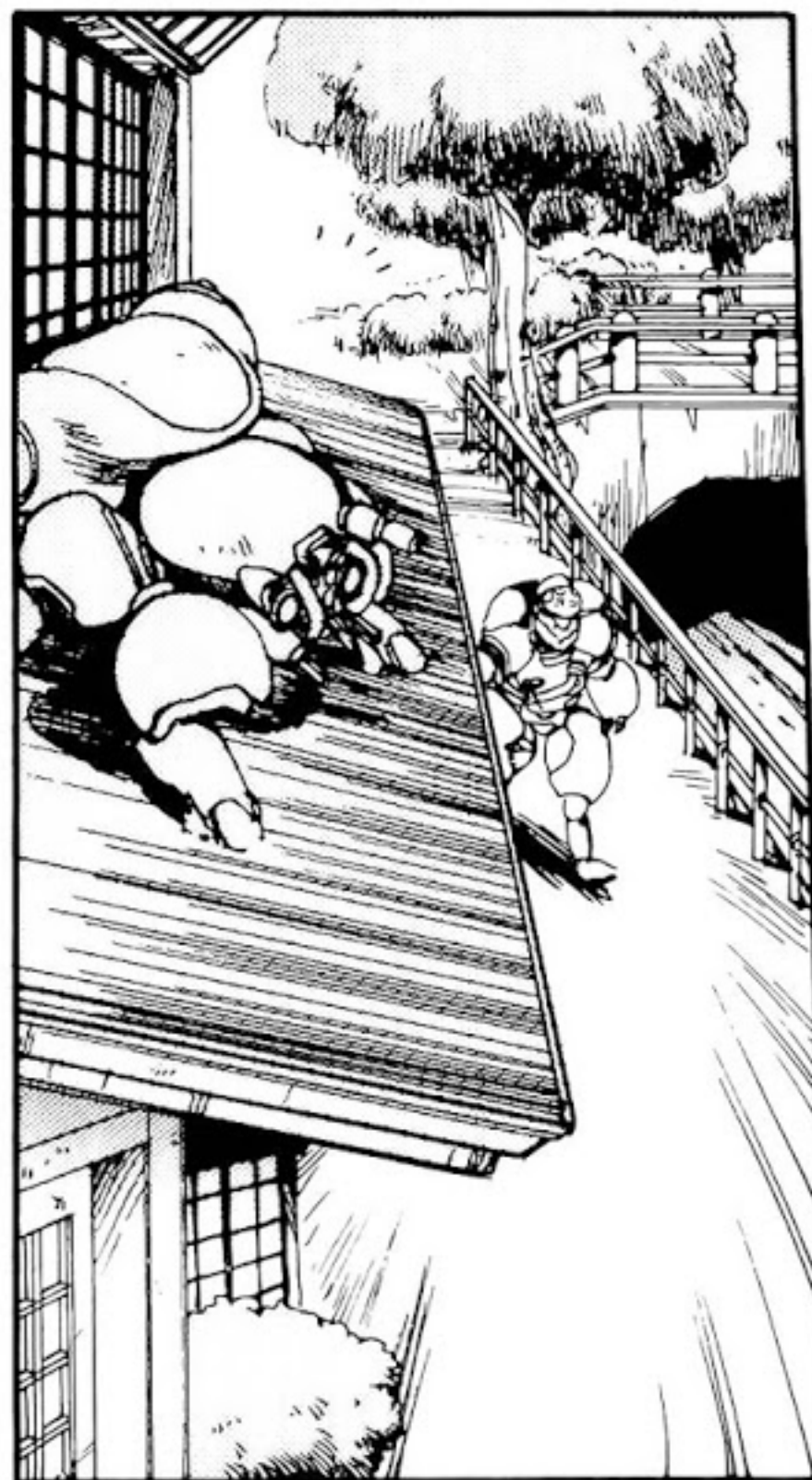
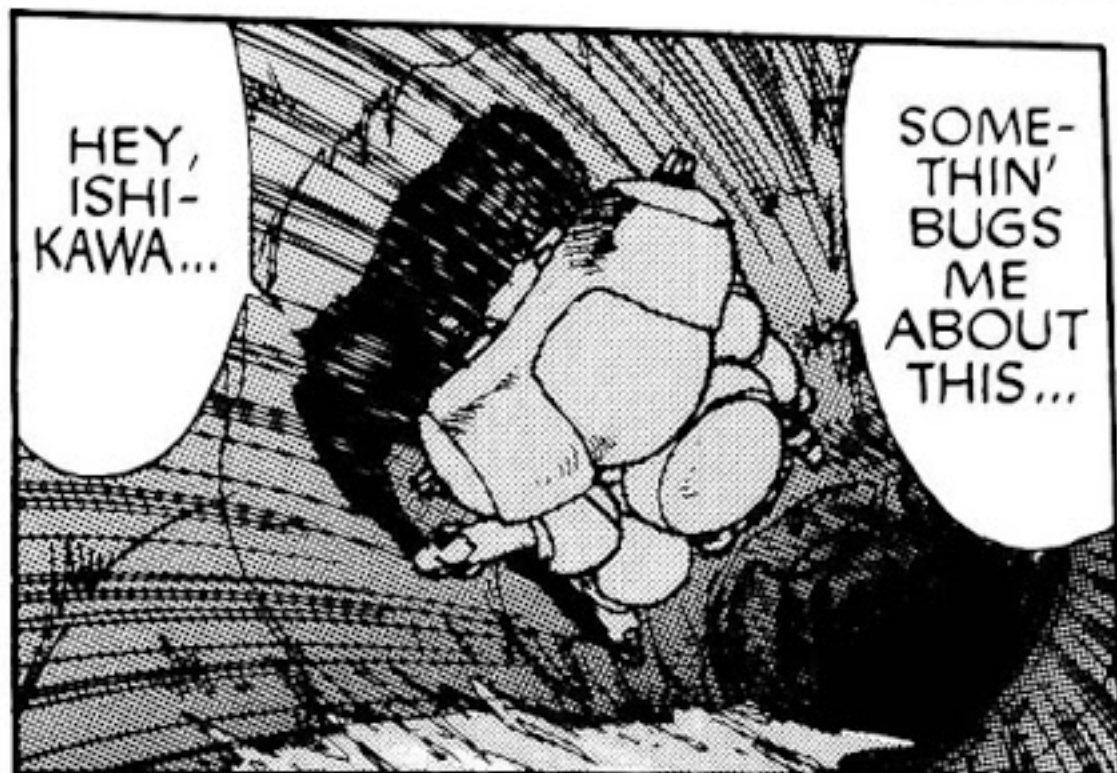
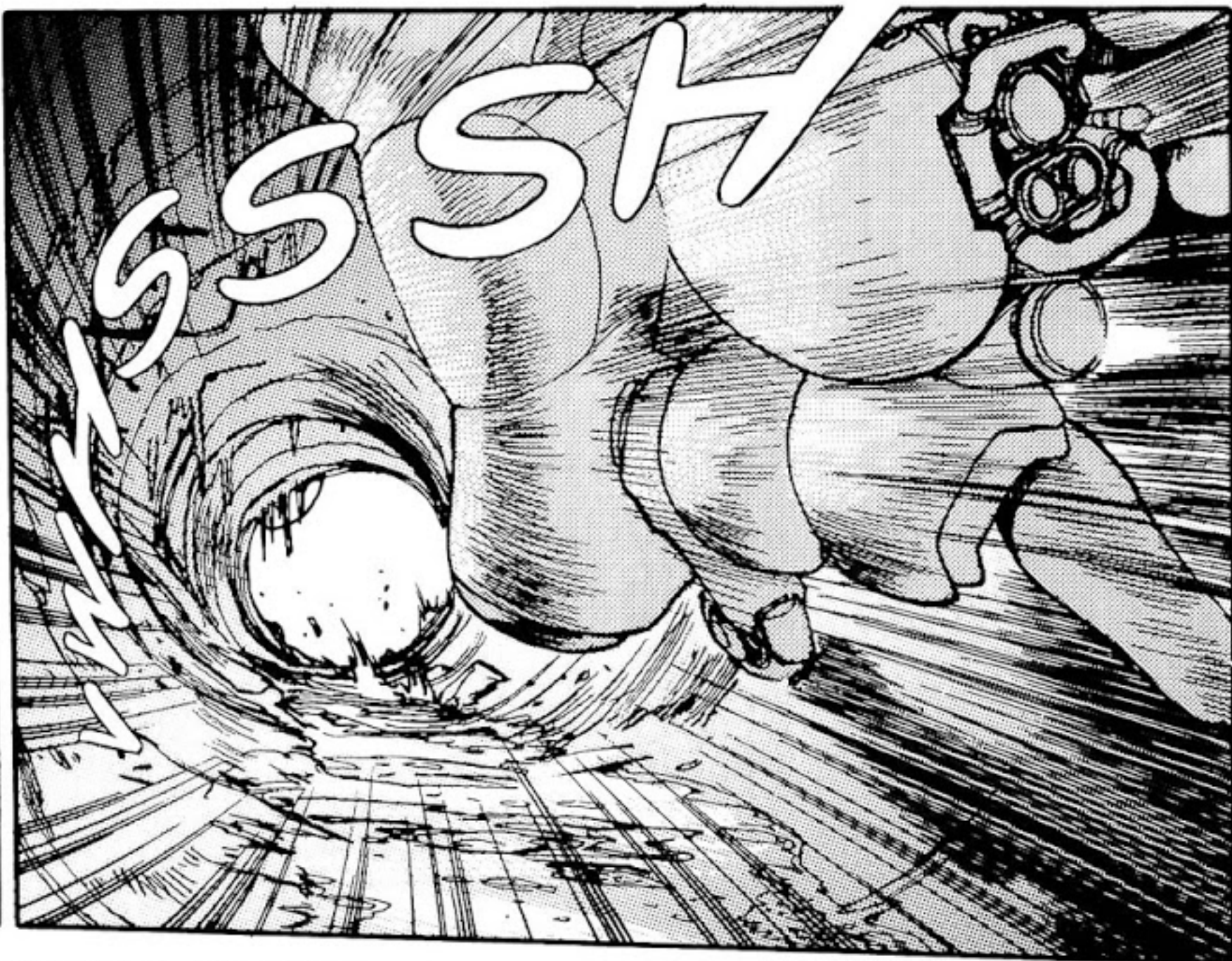


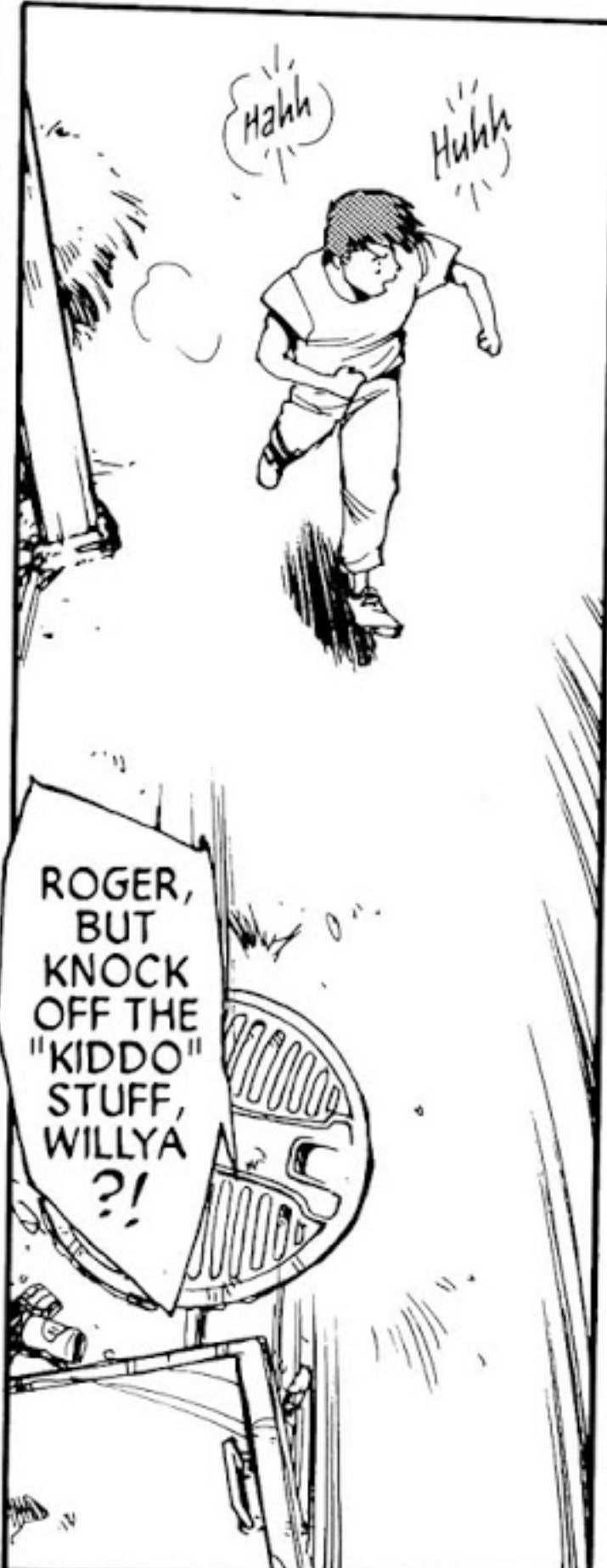
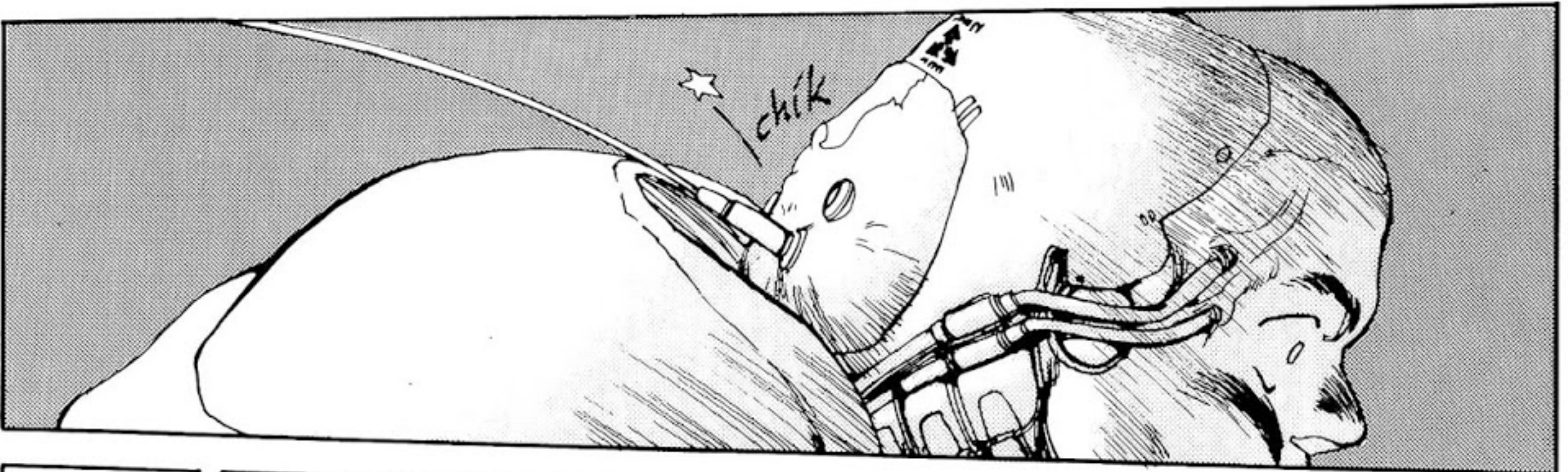
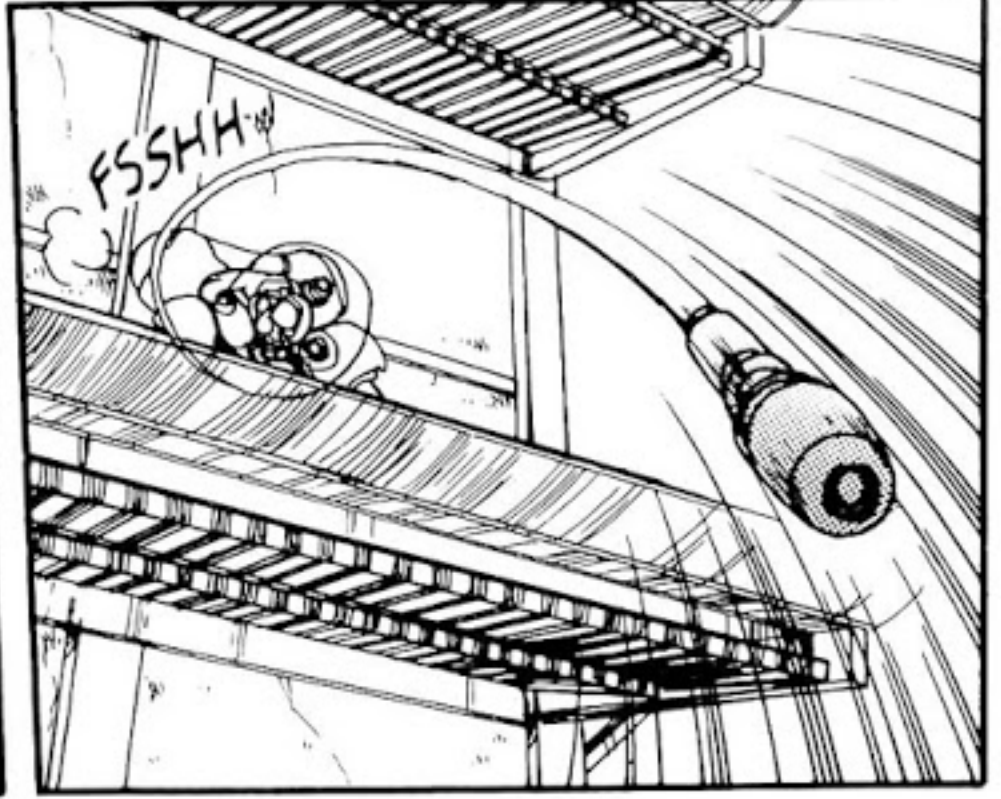
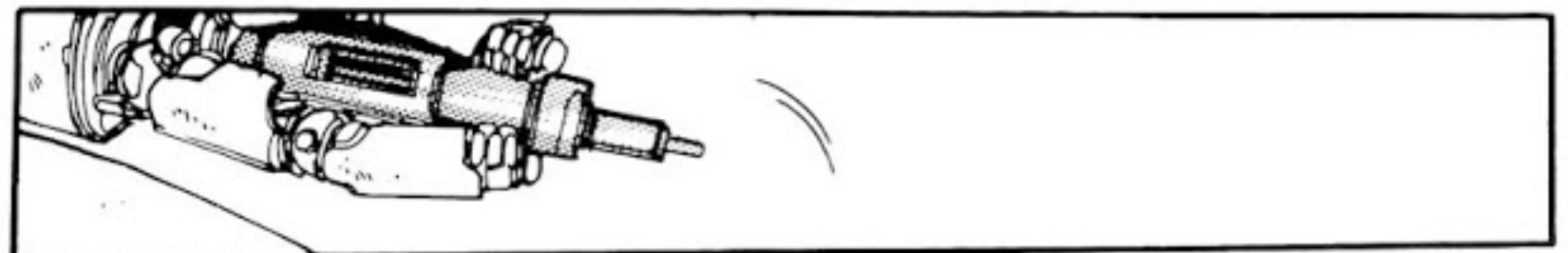
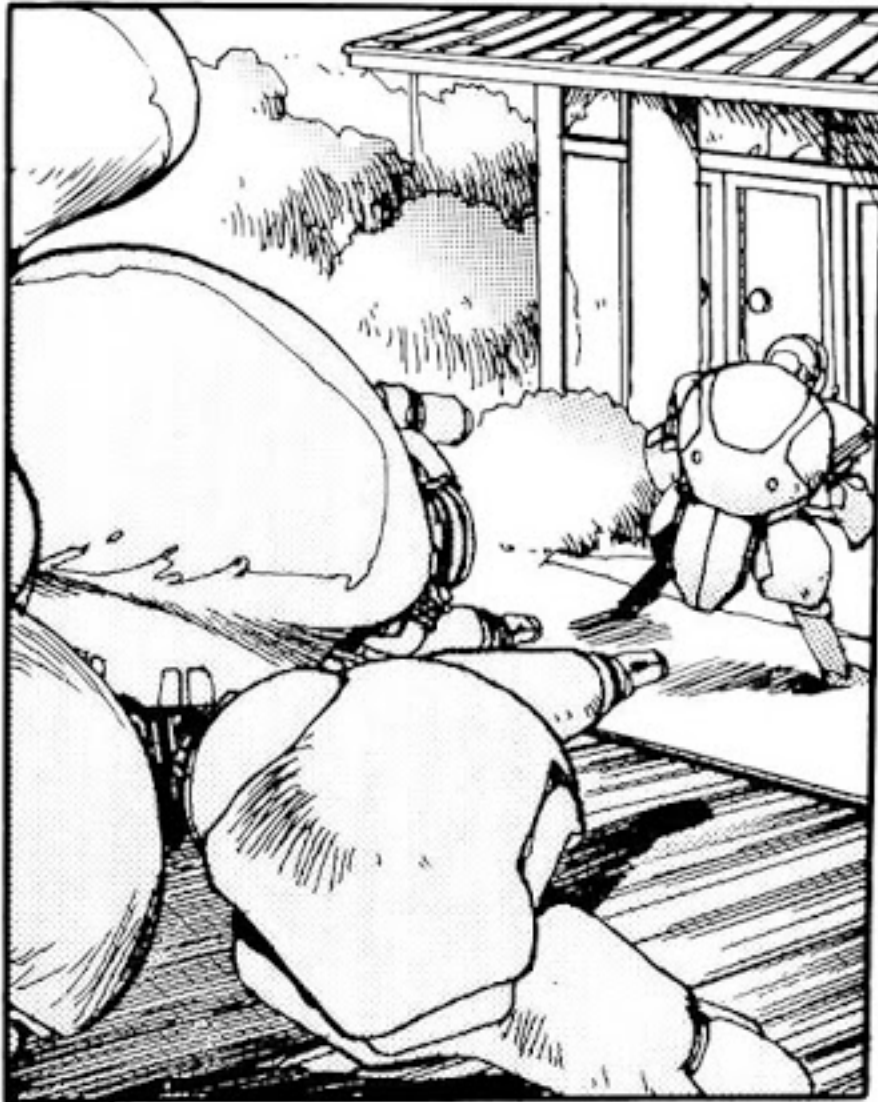


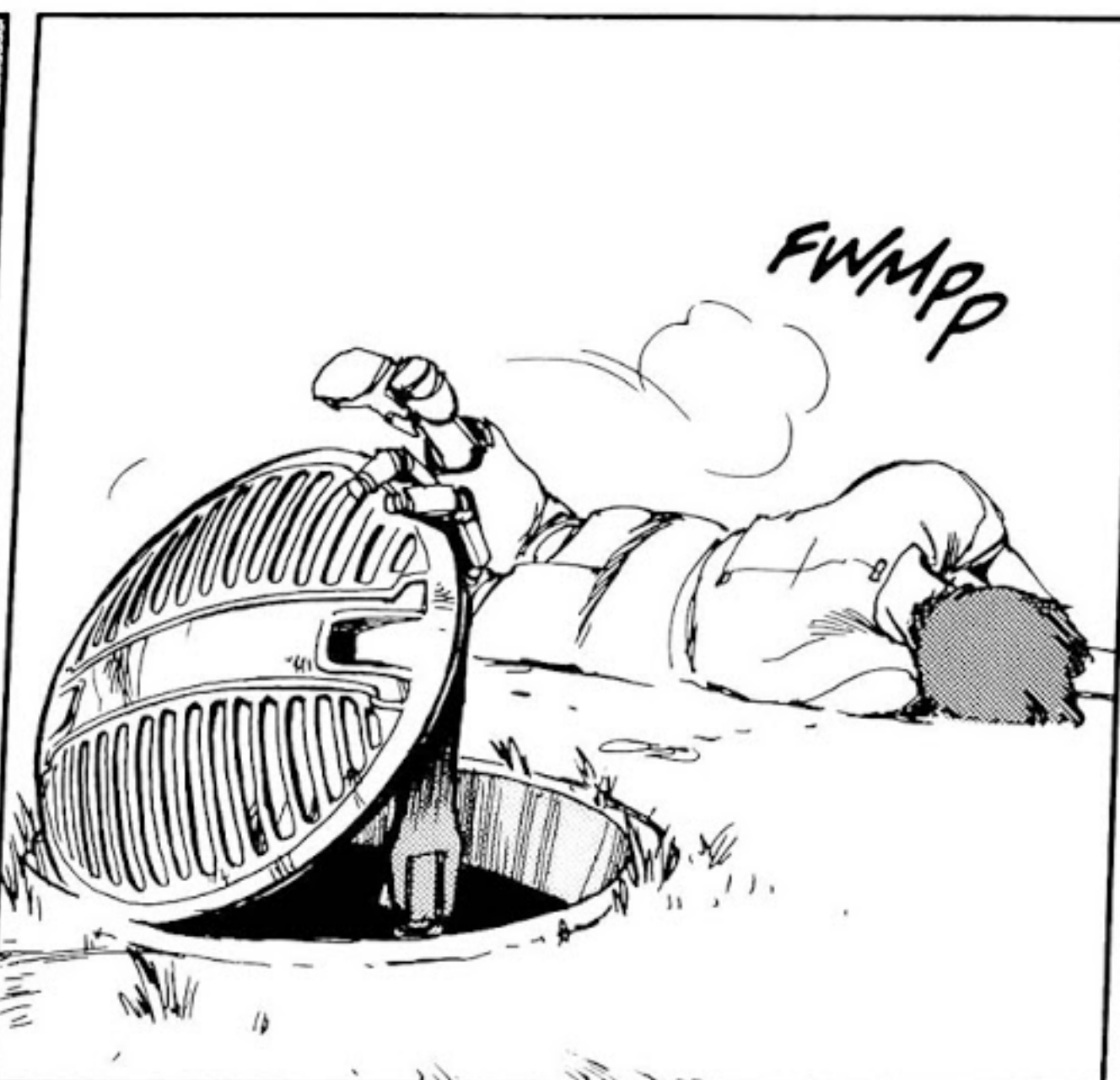
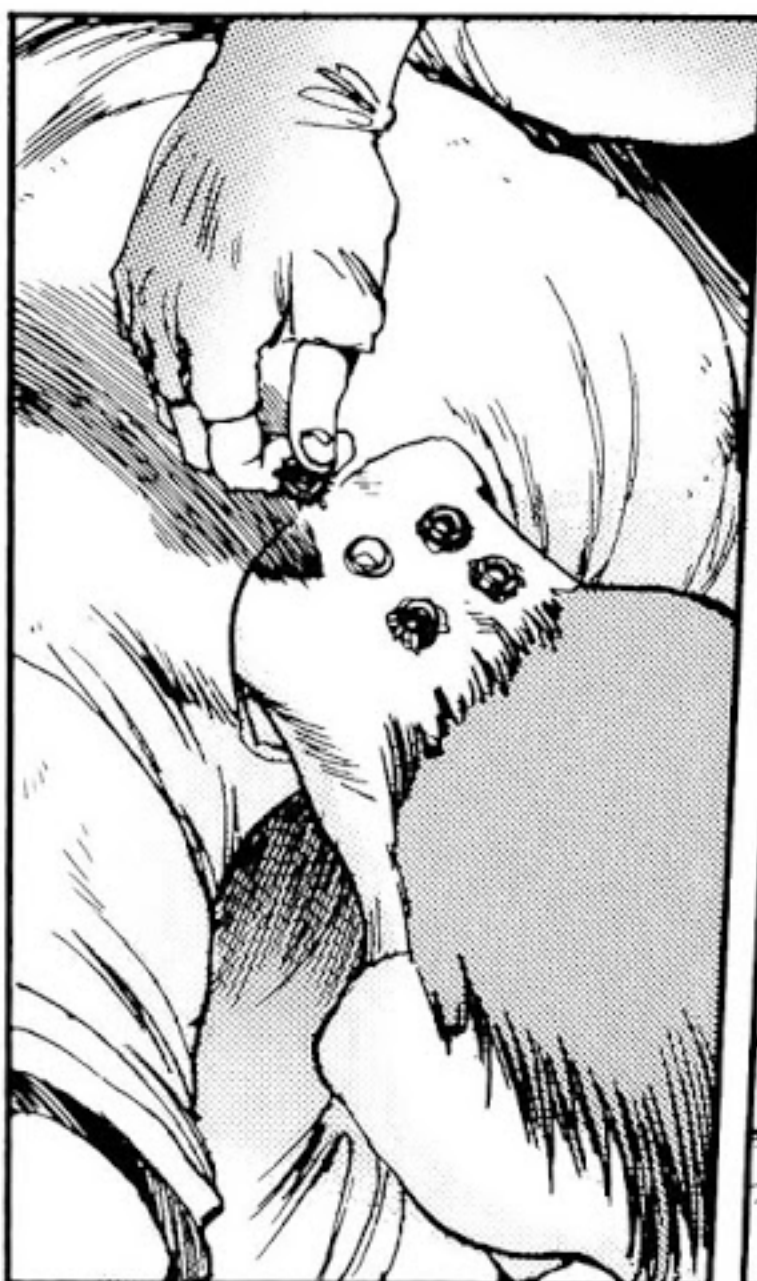
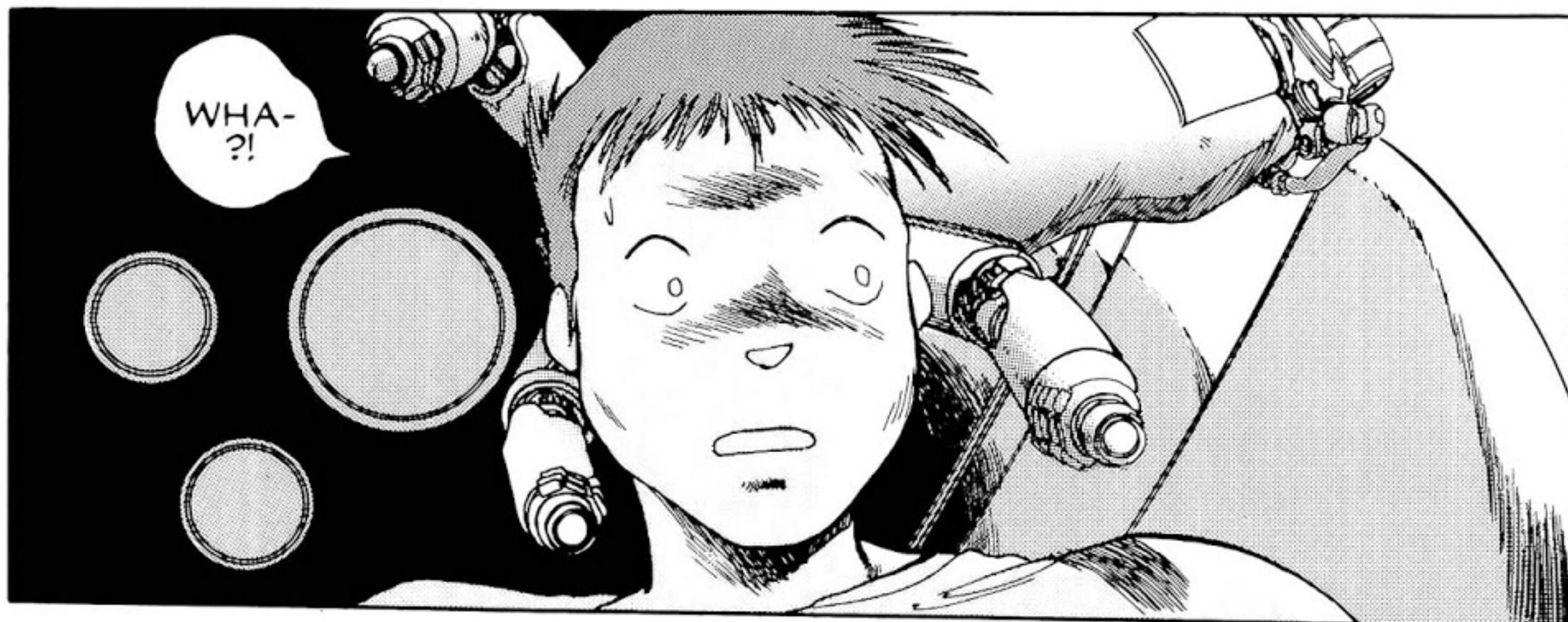


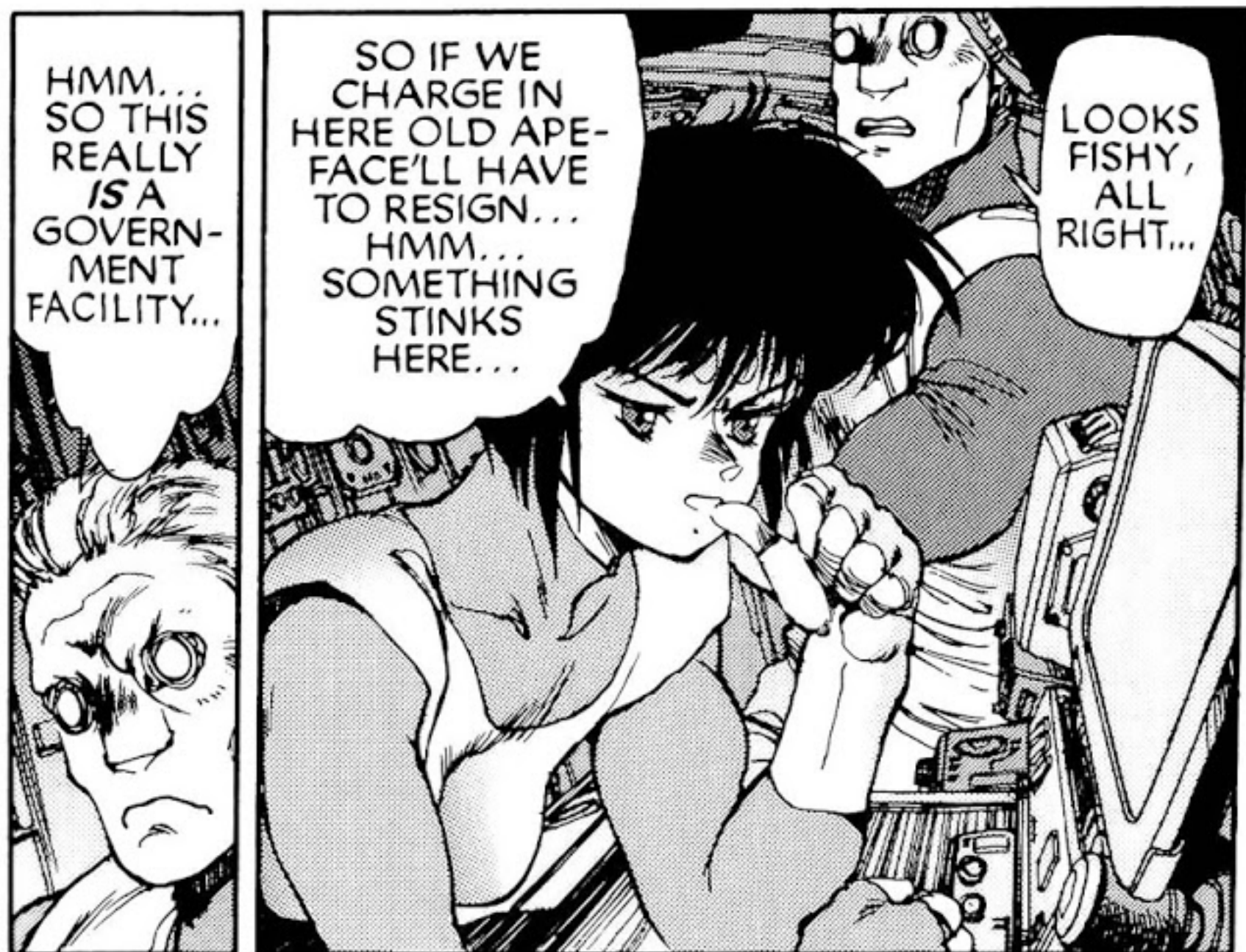
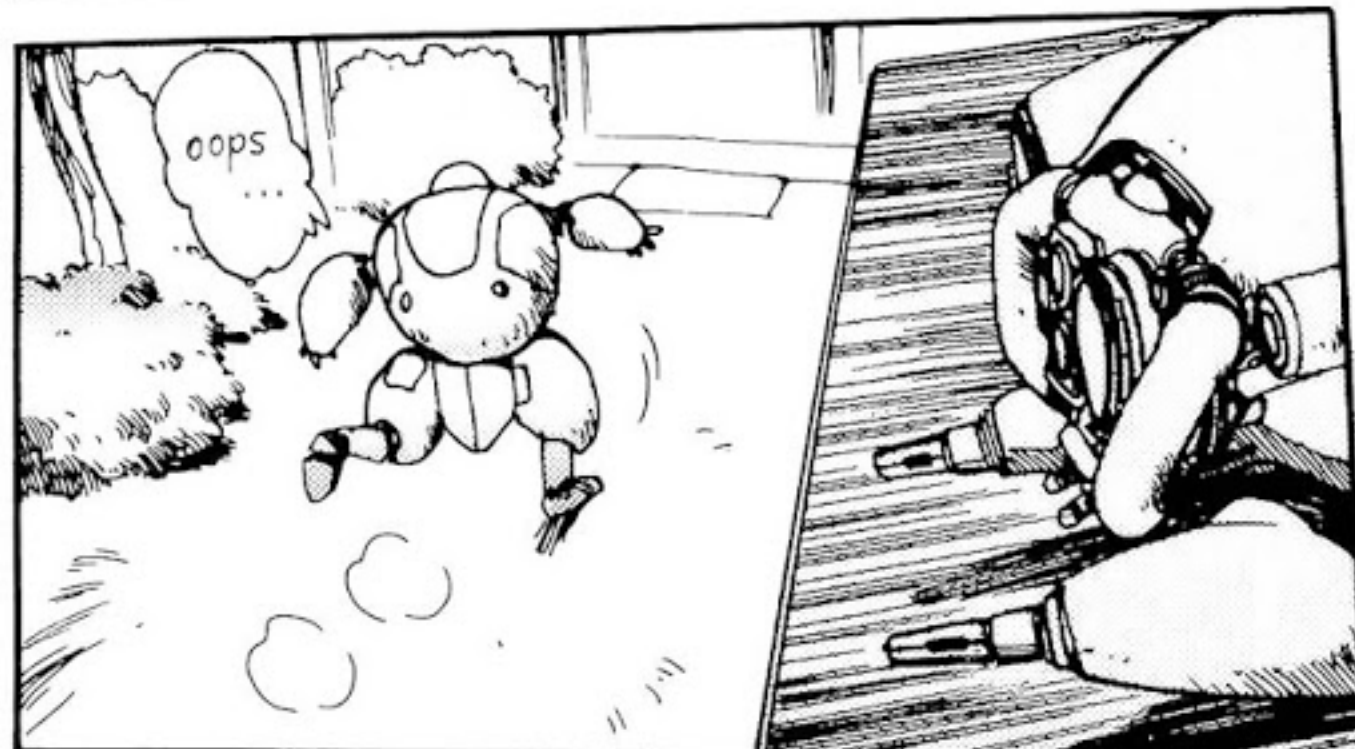
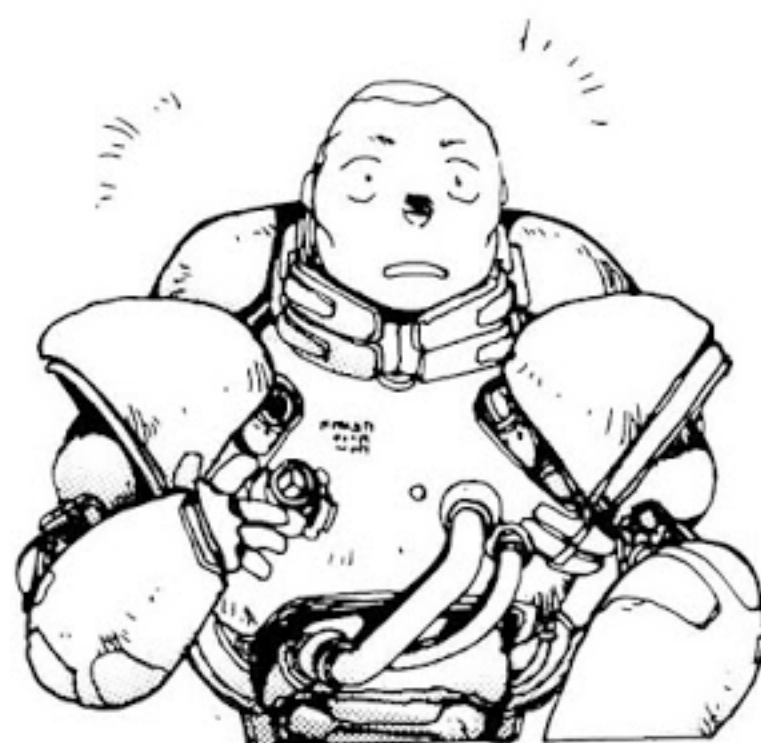
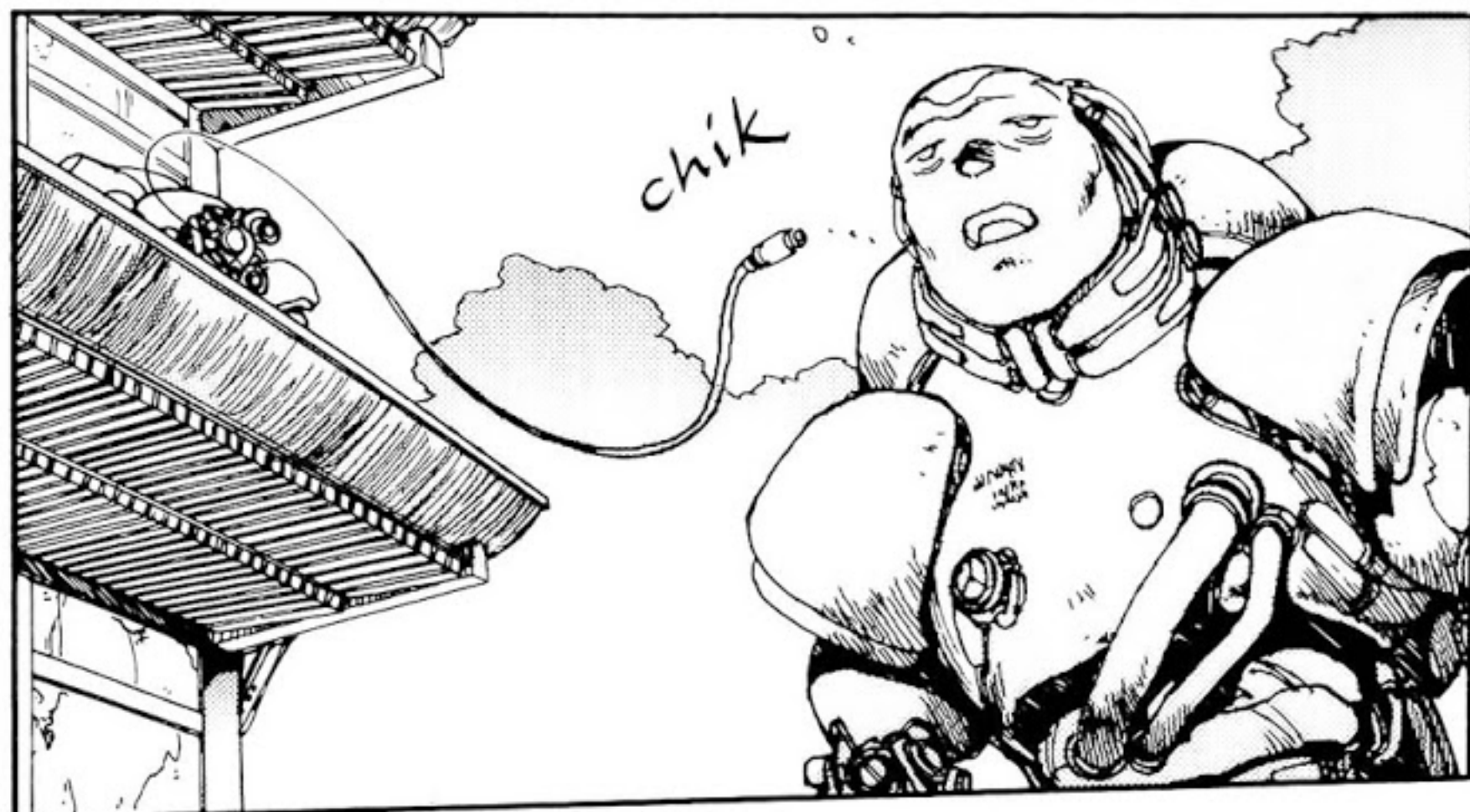


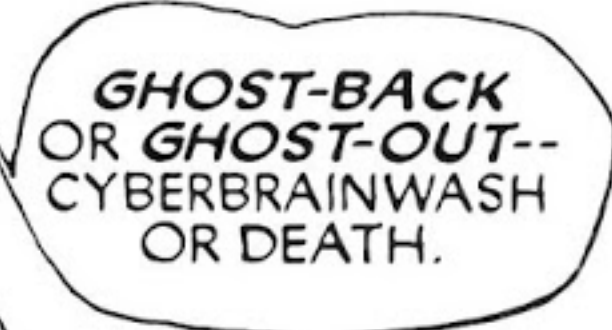
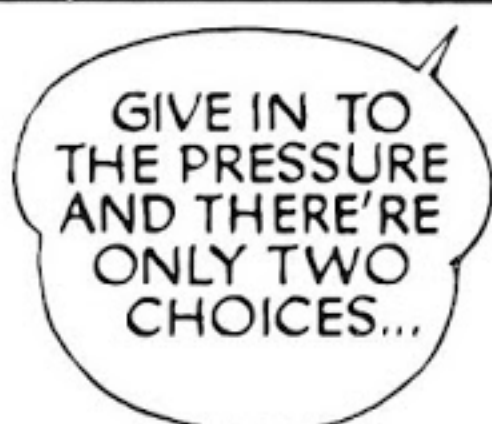
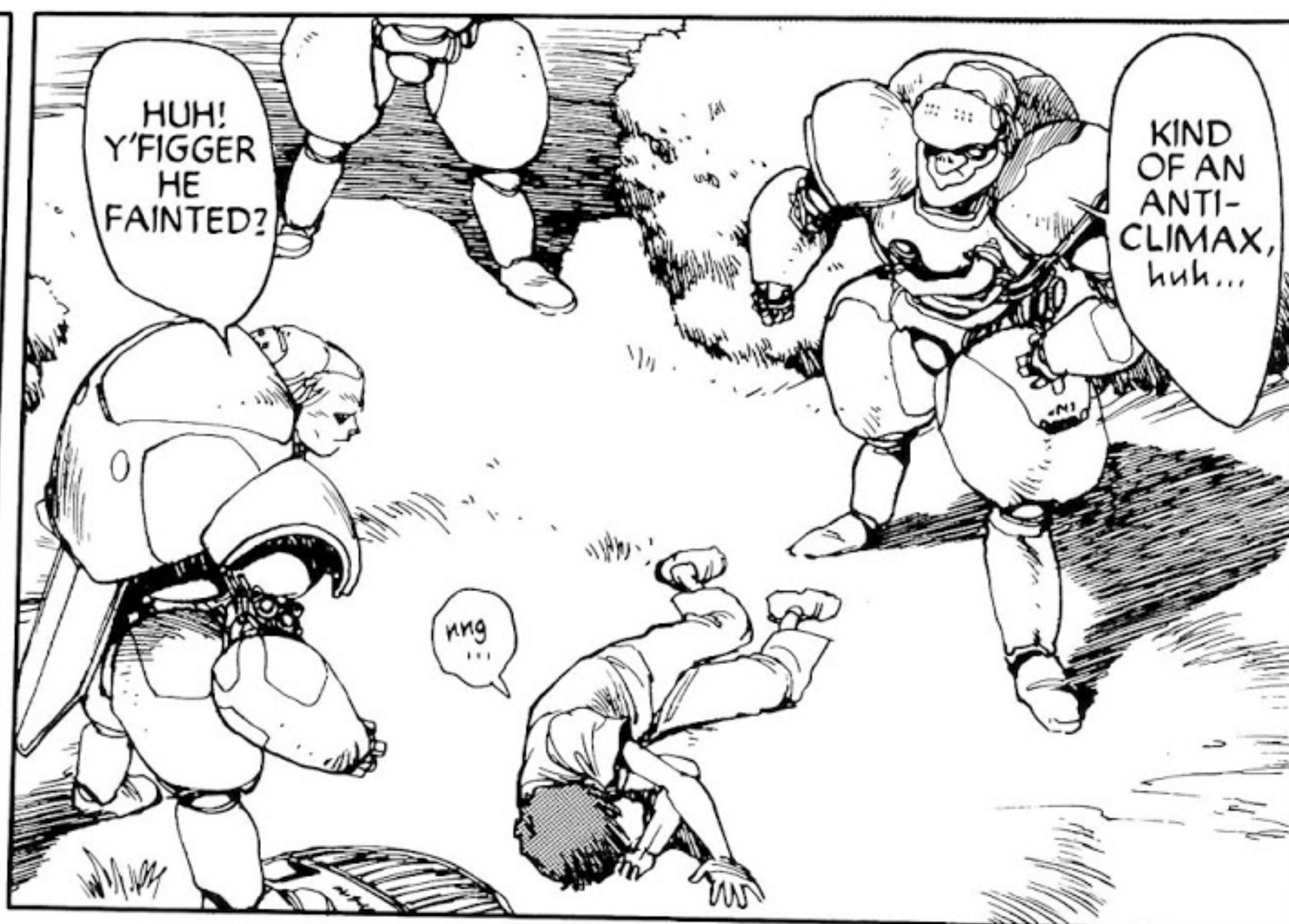




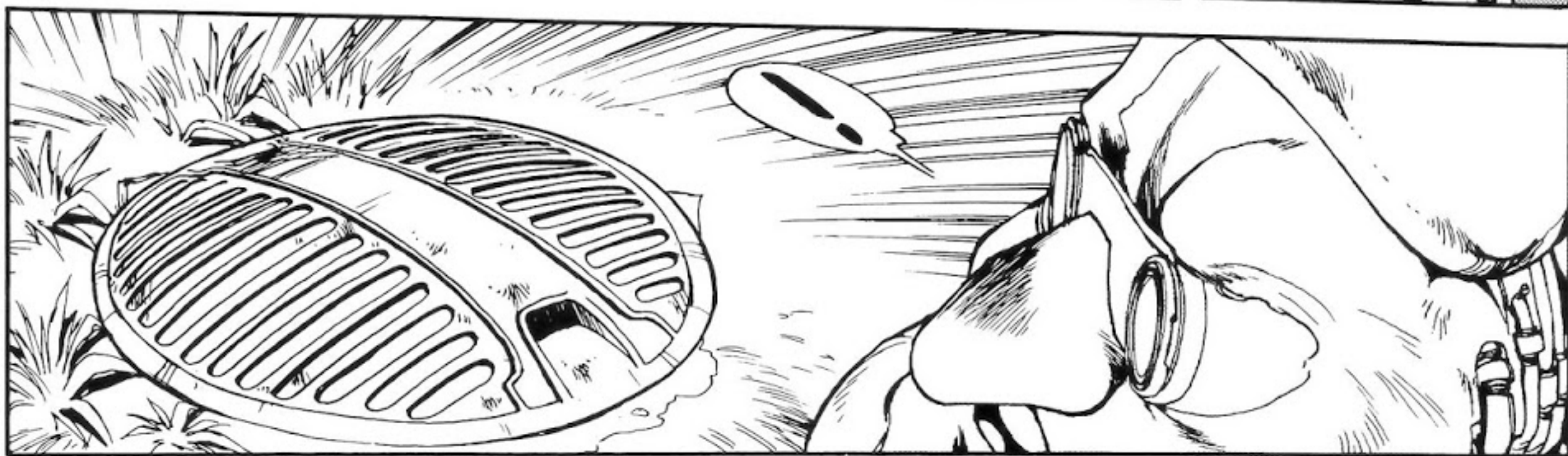
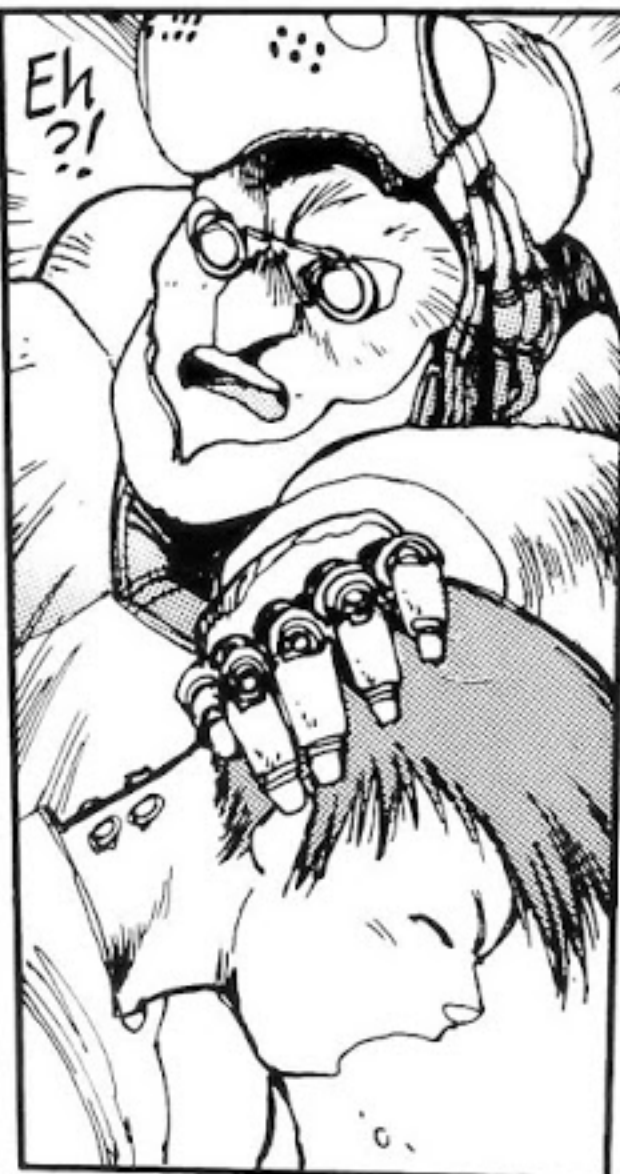
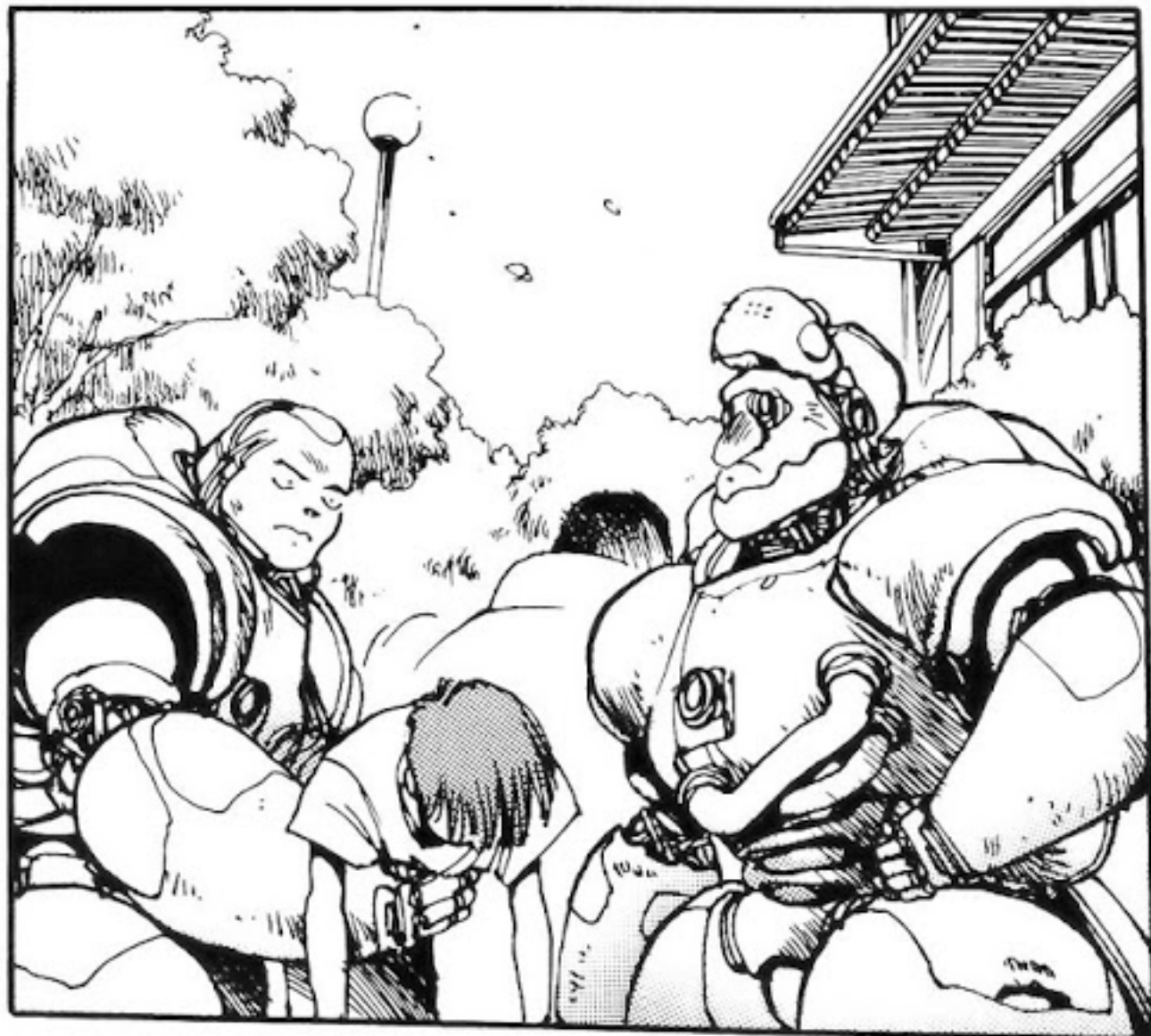


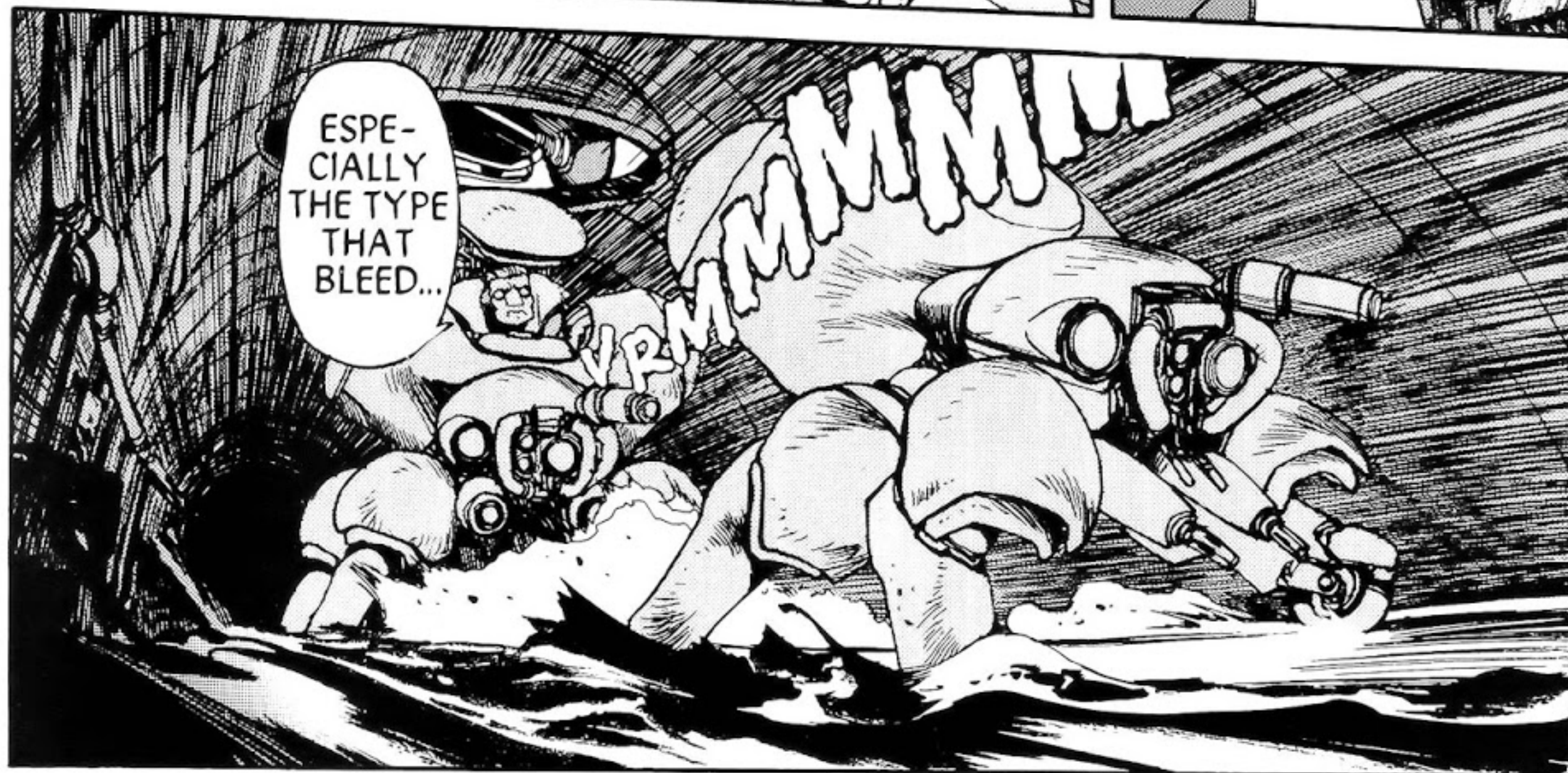


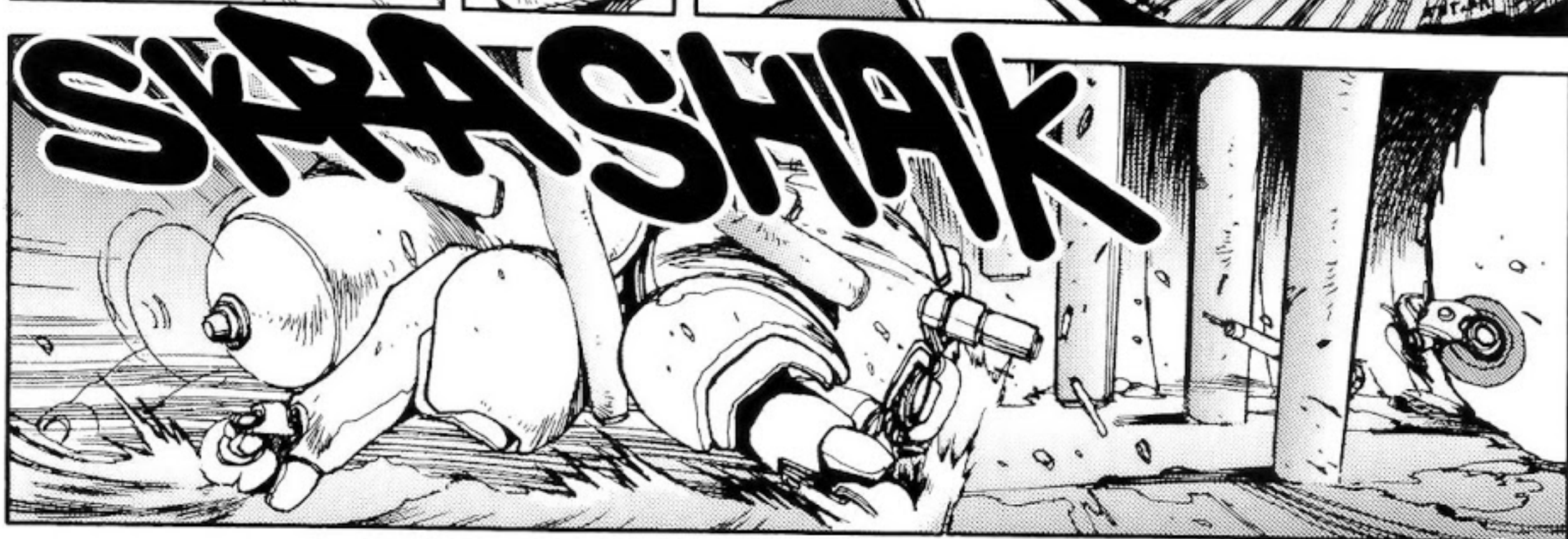
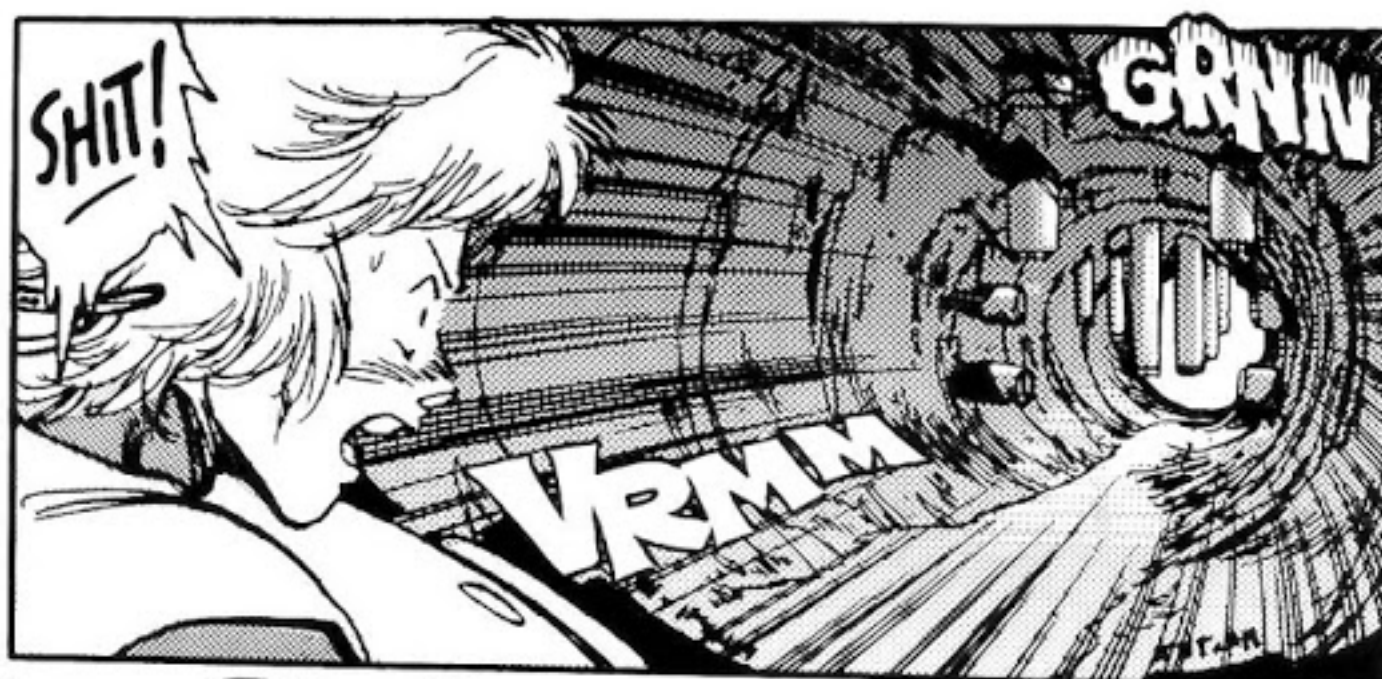


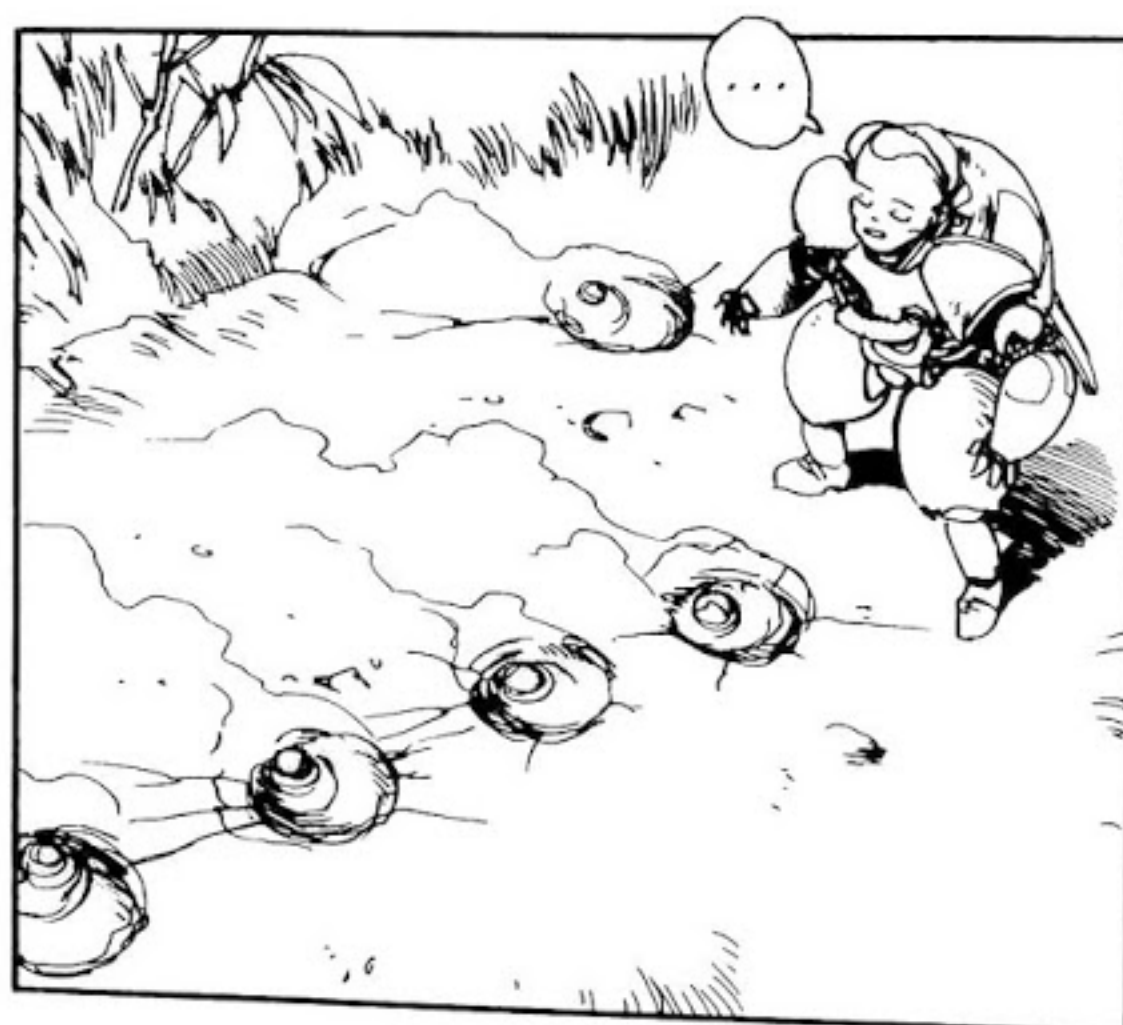
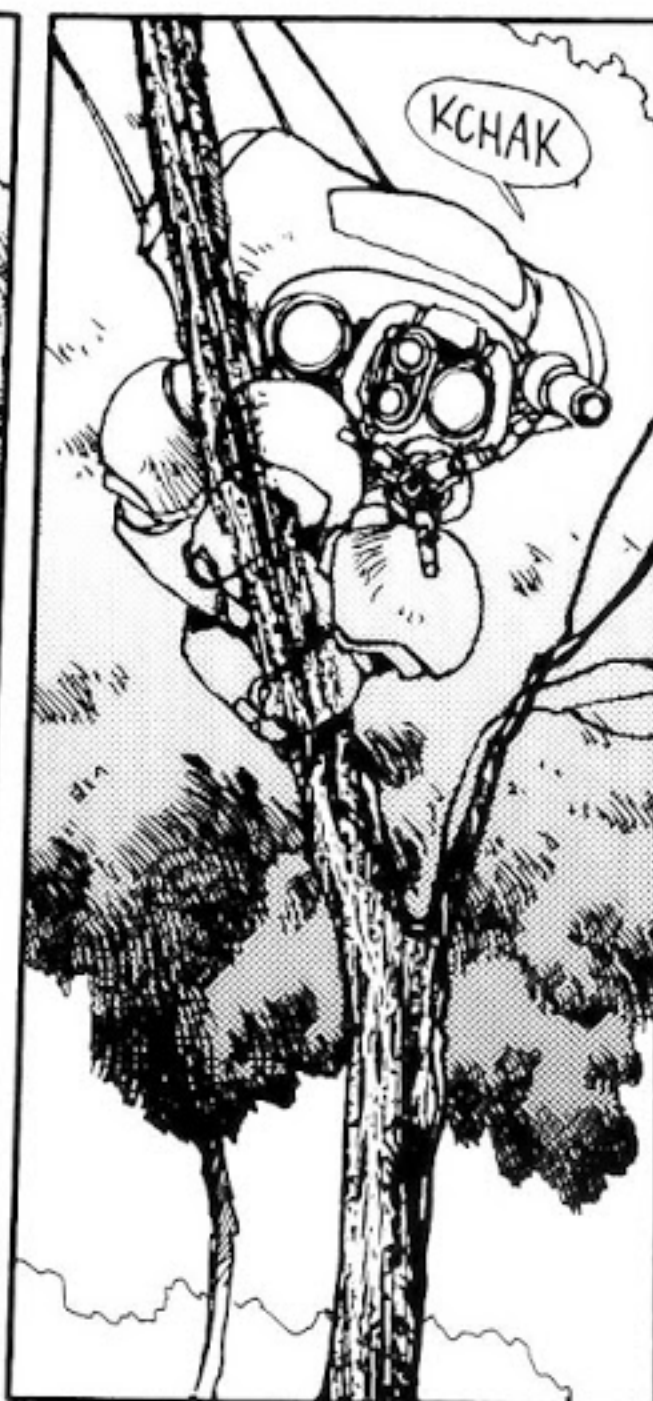


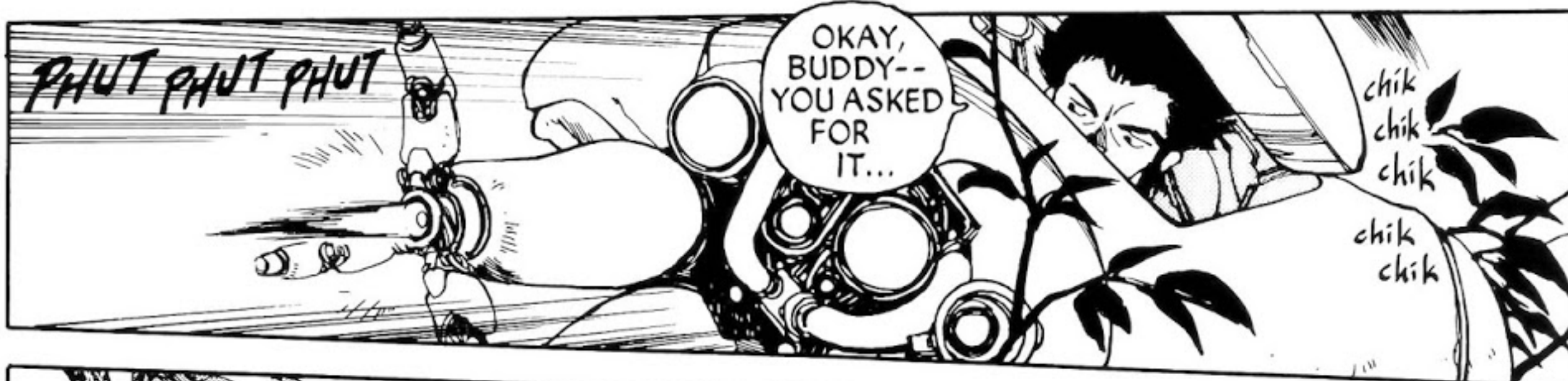


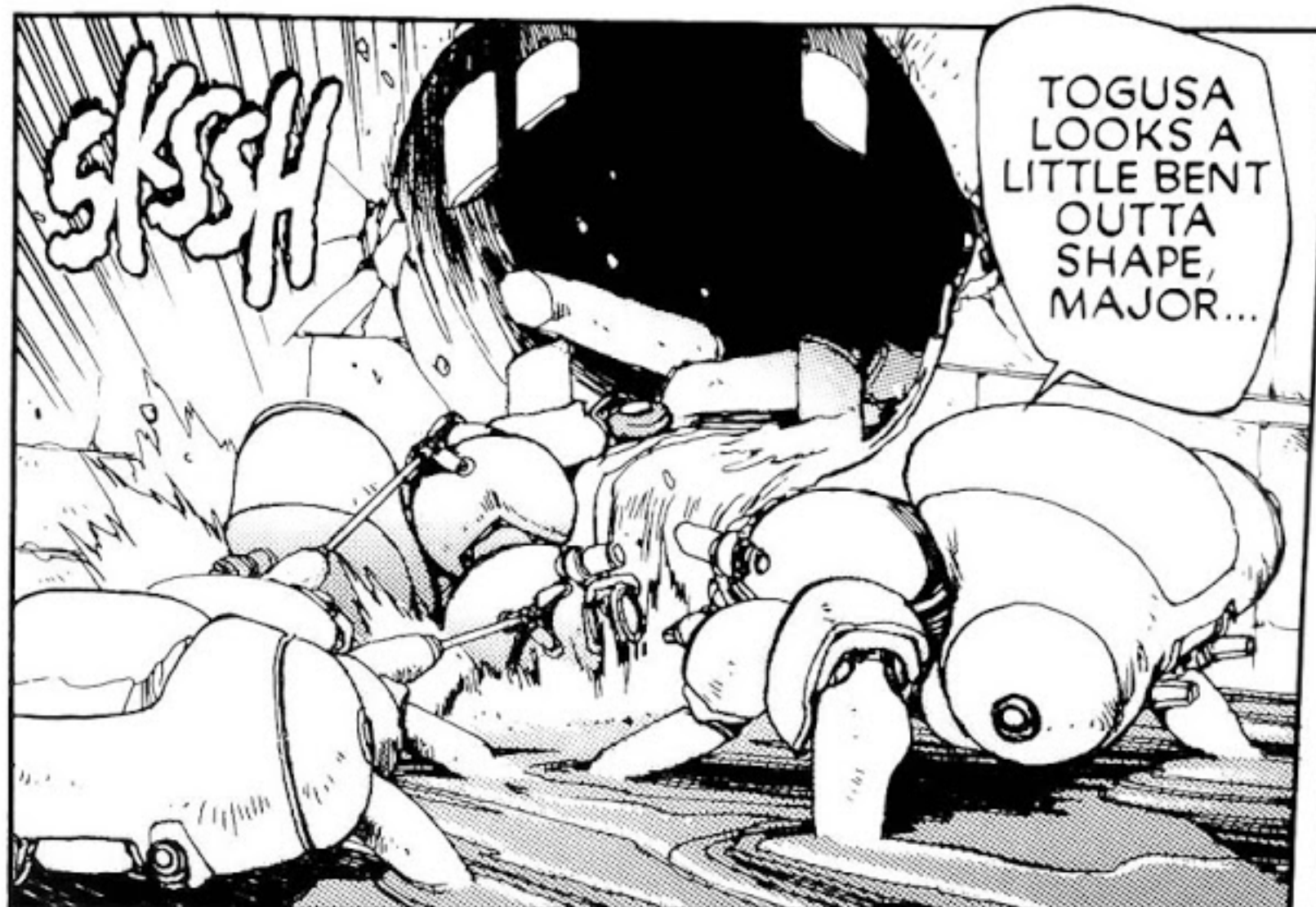












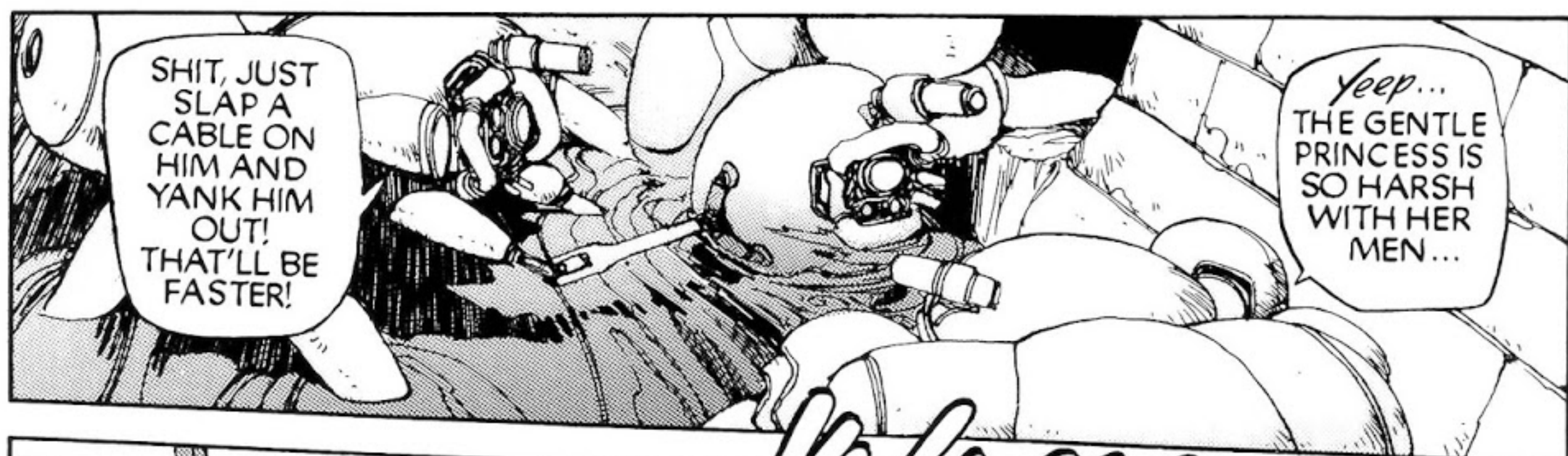
TOGUSA
LOOKS A
LITTLE BENT
OUTTA
SHAPE,
MAJOR...



WELL,
HELP
HIM
AND GET
OUT OF
THERE!

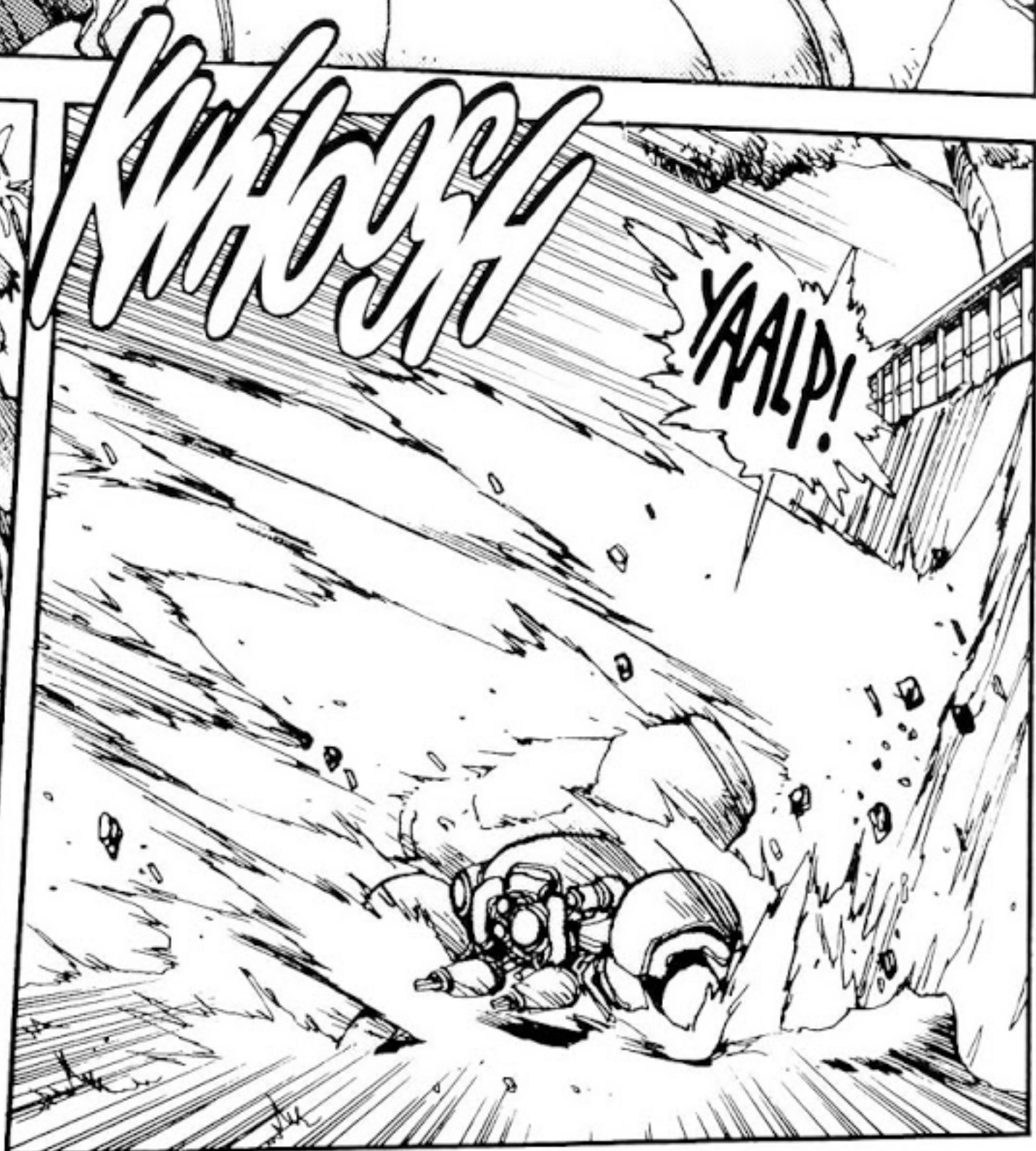
WE'RE
GOING
OUT-
SIDE?

OF
COURSE,
STUPID!
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
WE'RE
DOING
?!!



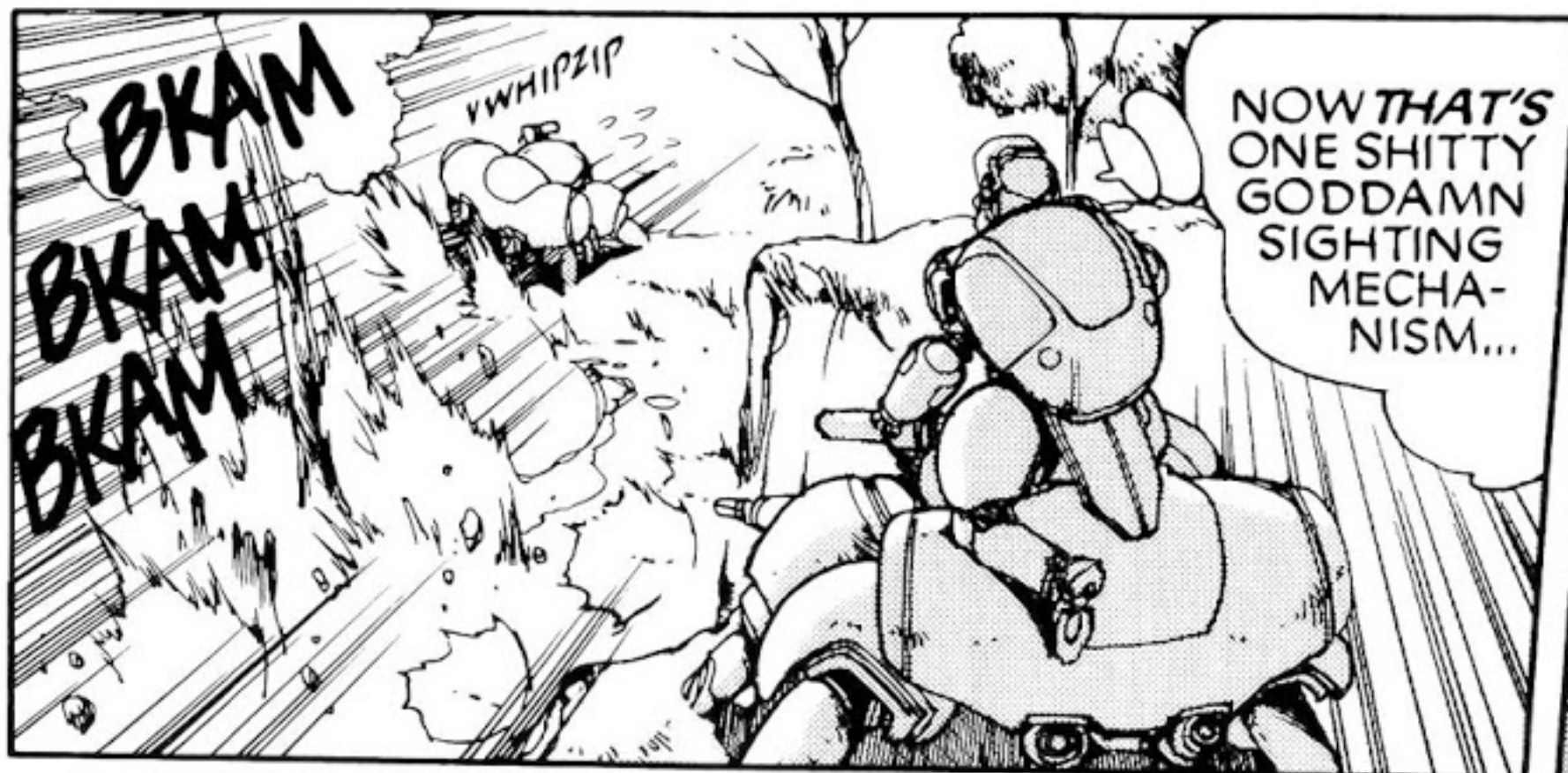
SHIT, JUST
SLAP A
CABLE ON
HIM AND
YANK HIM
OUT!
THAT'LL BE
FASTER!

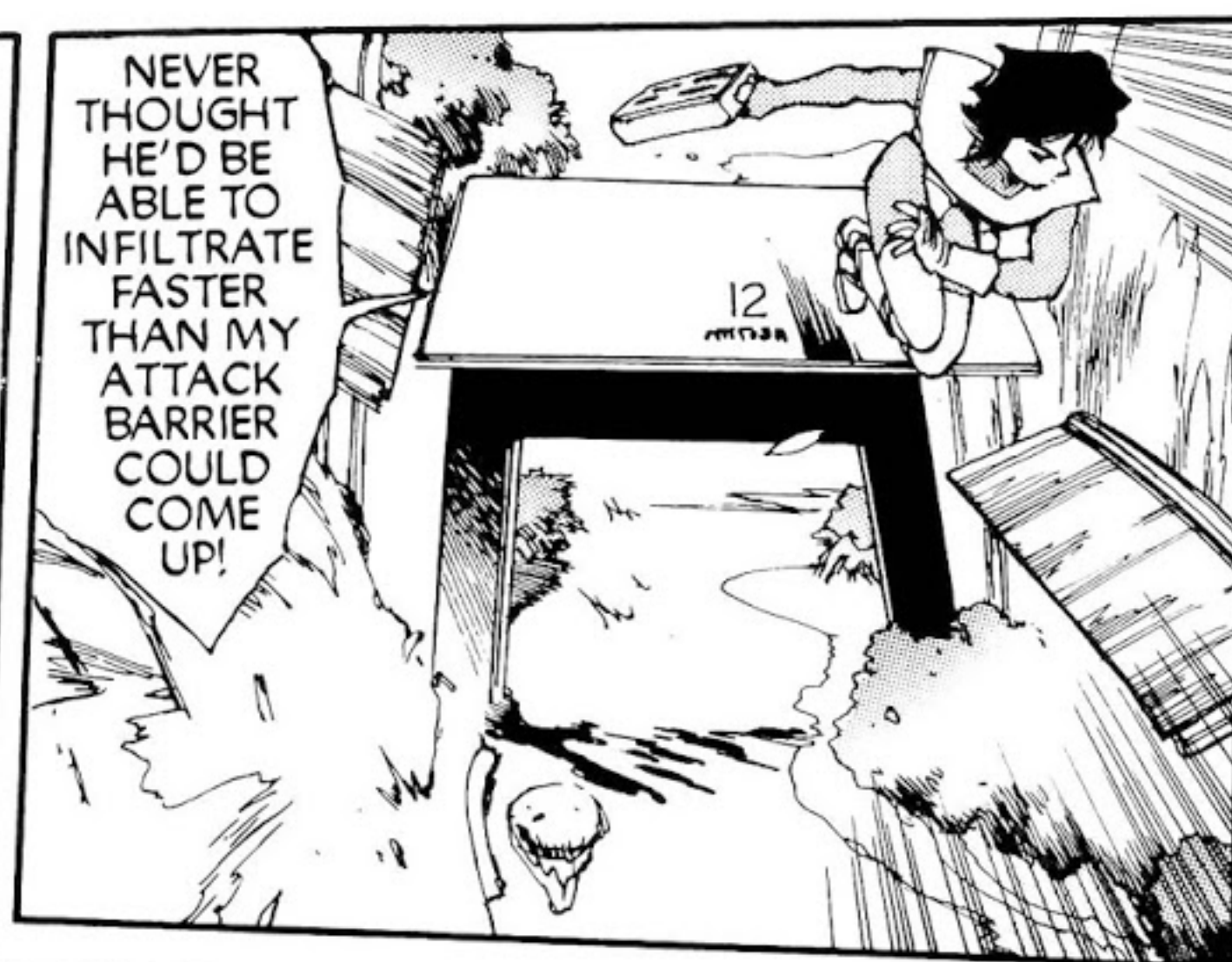
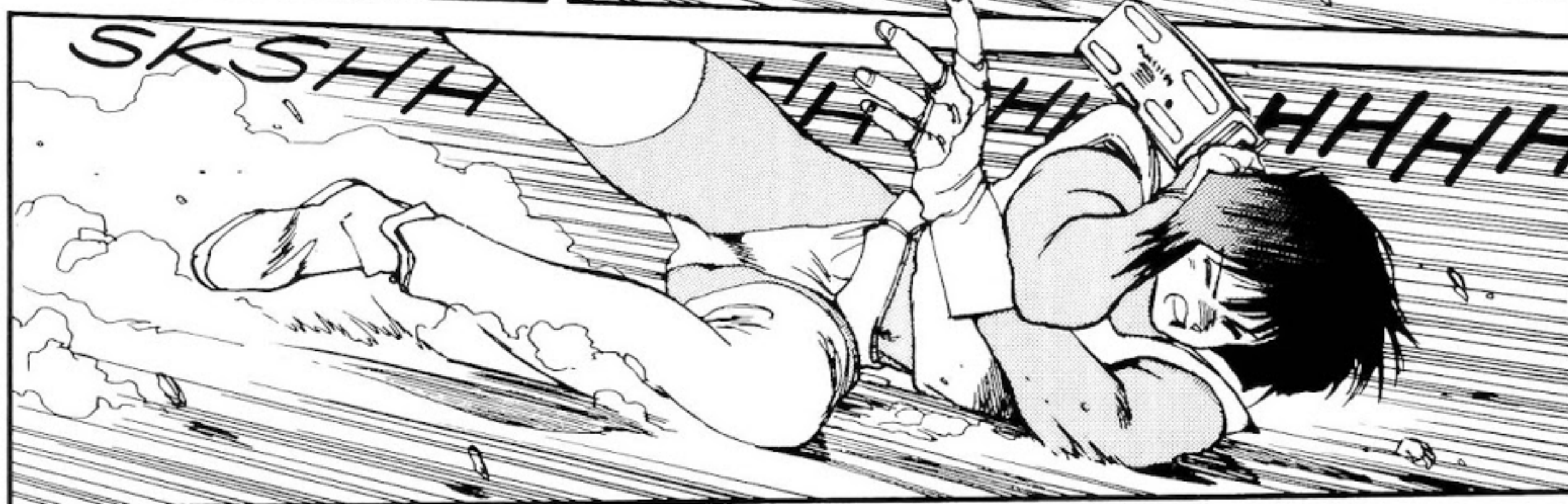
Yeep...
THE GENTLE
PRINCESS IS
SO HARSH
WITH HER
MEN...

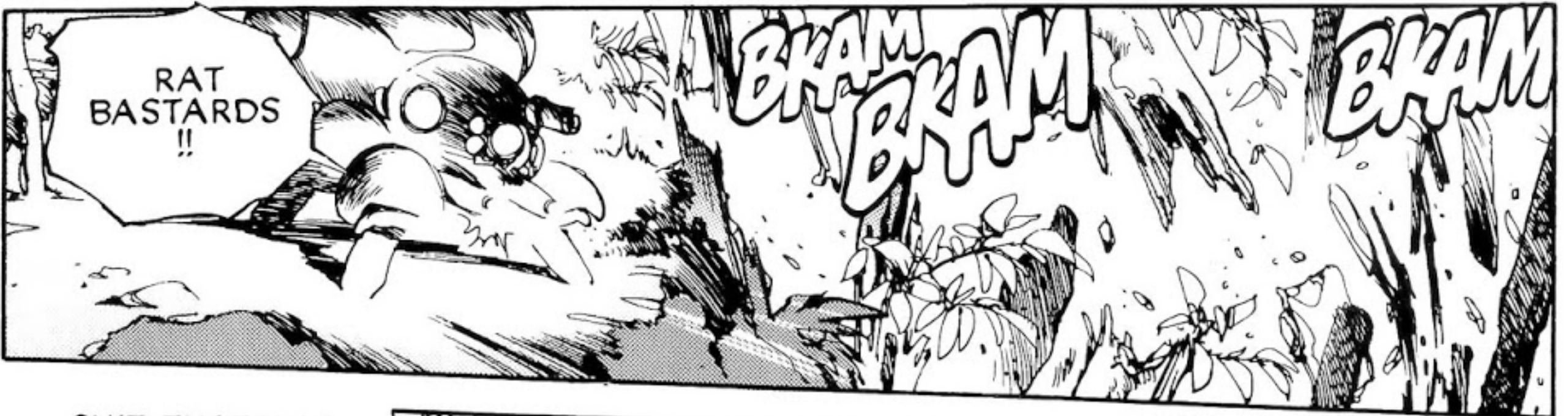
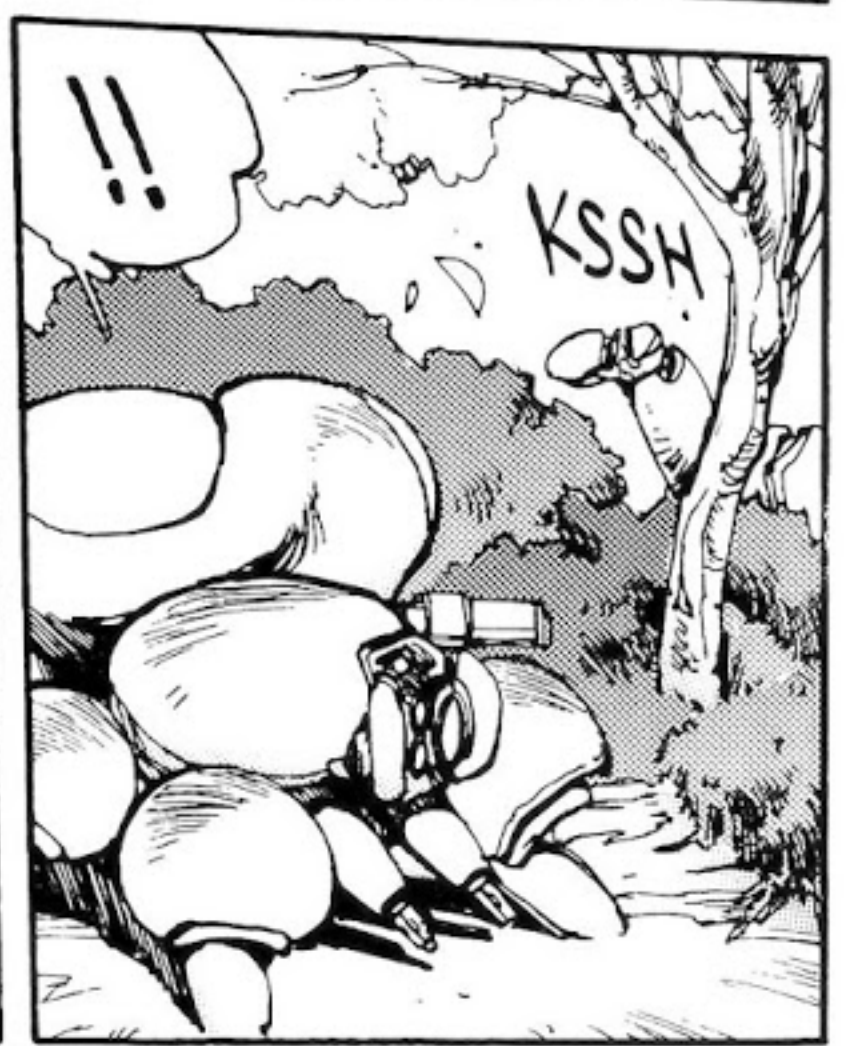
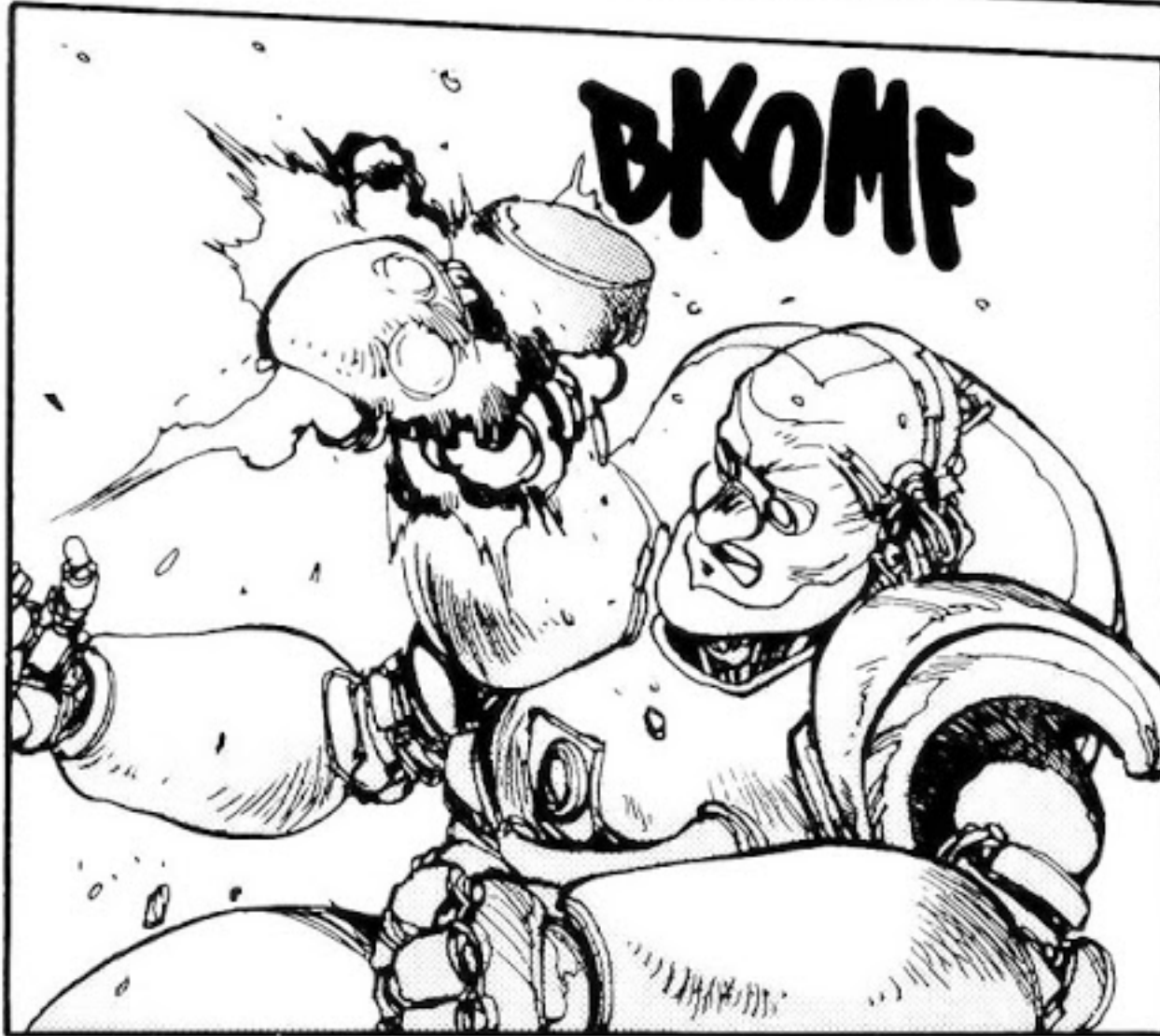


HEY!
ISN'T THAT
ISHIKAWA'S
FUCHIKOMA?

WHAT
THE
HELL'S
GOING
ON?







SHIT, THAT WAS
CLOSE! GOOD
THING I HAD MY
ACTIVE PROTECTOR
SUIT ON... I'VE
GOTTA WIPE THAT
WEIRDO SQUAD
LEADER BROAD...

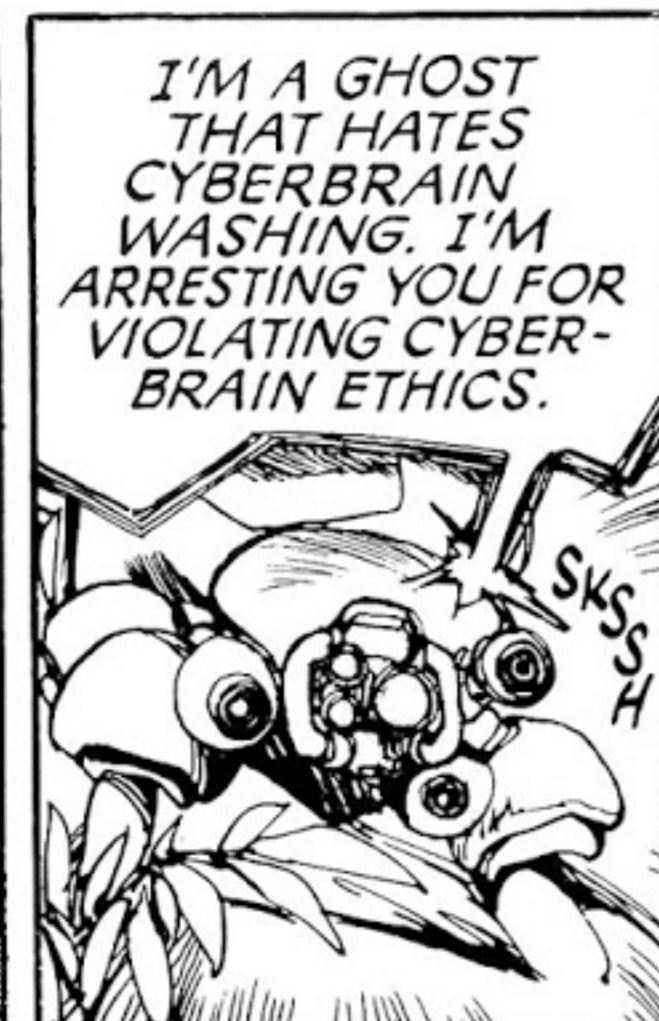




OPTO-CAM??
NO
AUDIO/IR
SIG? A
KYO-RE
INVISIBLE
CAPE...?!*



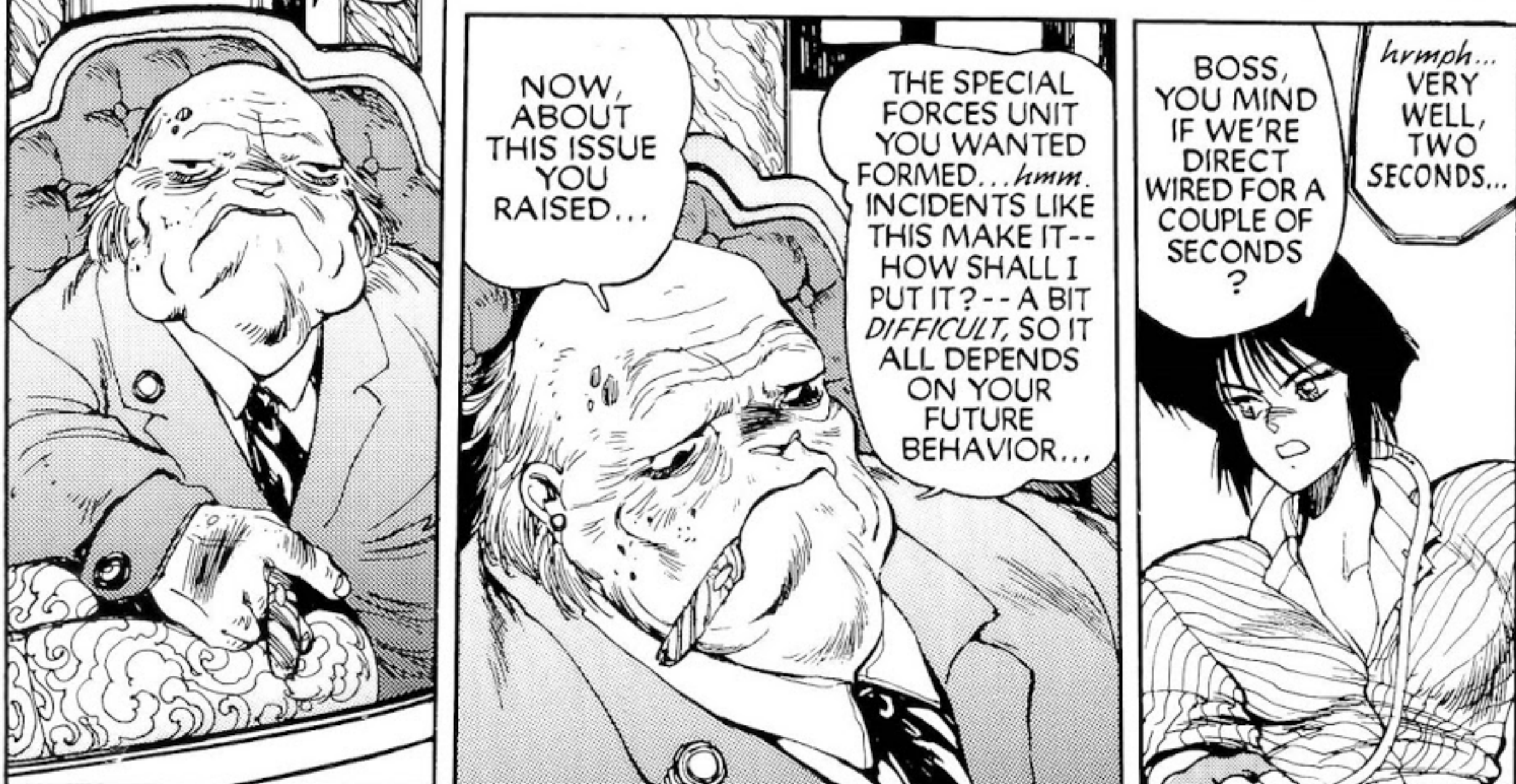
*: NAME OF AN ALL-WEATHER, THERMO-OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE SUIT. KYO-RE IS THE MANUFACTURER'S NAME.





DO YOU JUST WANT TO EAT AND CONTRIBUTE NOTHING, TO BE BRAINWASHED BY MEDIA TRASH? TO SACRIFICE THE NATION'S FUTURE FOR YOUR OWN SELFISHNESS?







GUESS THAT'S THE END OF MY MILITARY CAREER...



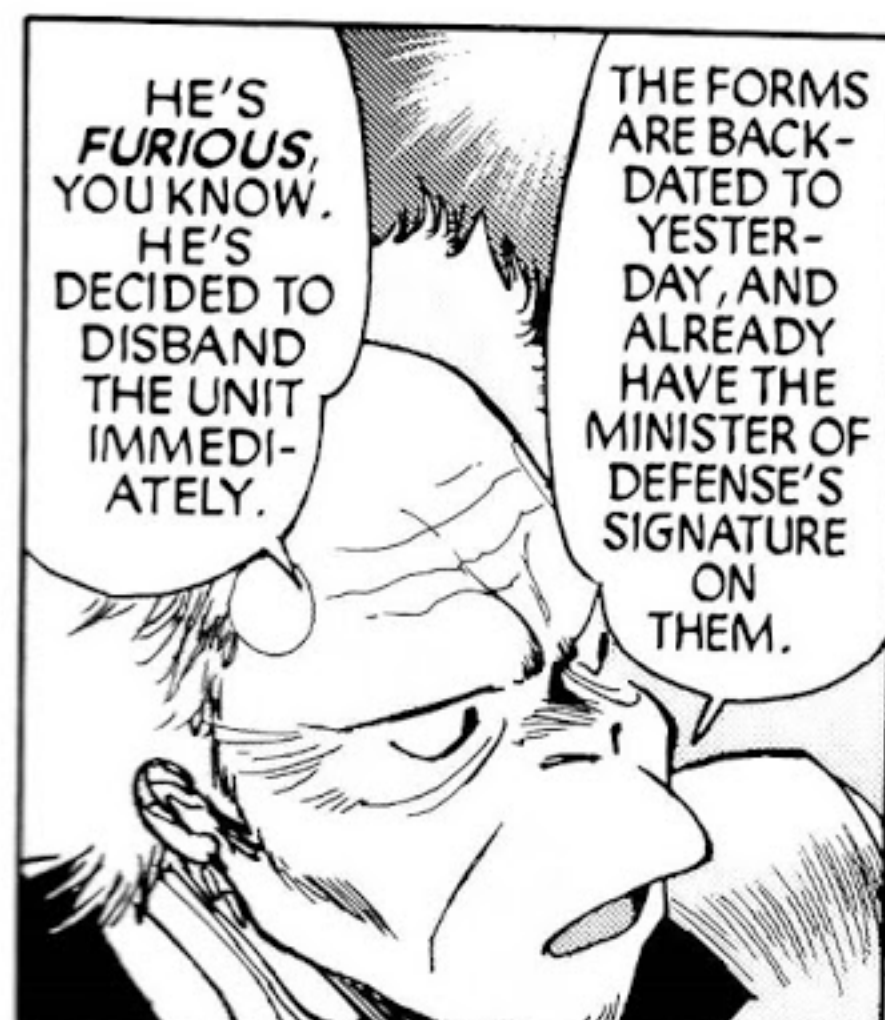
I'D RATHER BE TRANSFERRED THAN JUST BE AN ERRAND-GIRL FOR THOSE PUBLIC SECURITY UKES.

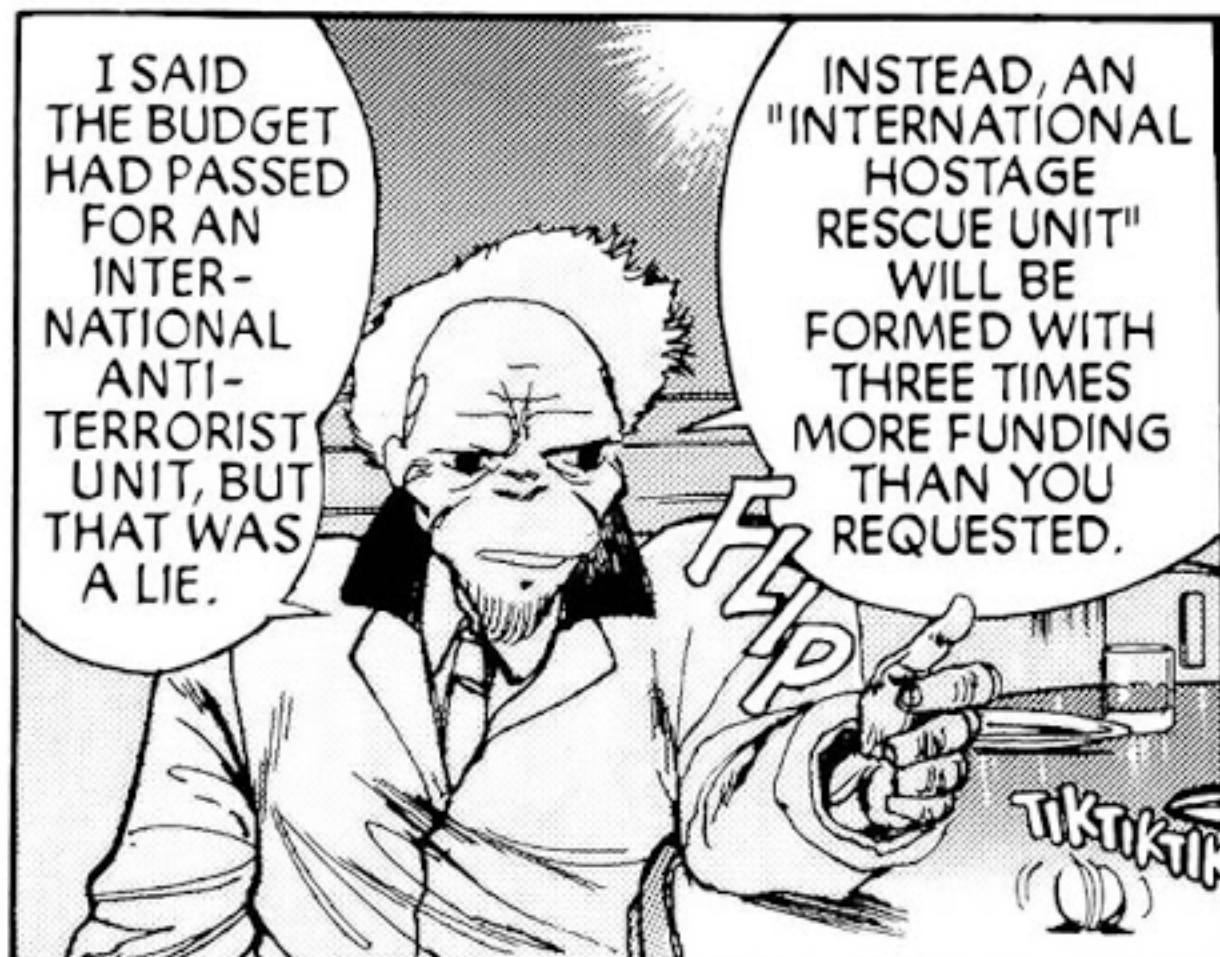
DON'T YOU GUYS SWEAT IT... I'LL SLAP TOGETHER GREAT FITNESS REPORTS FOR YOU ALL...



HEY... WHERE'S TOGUSA? I DON'T SEE HIM...

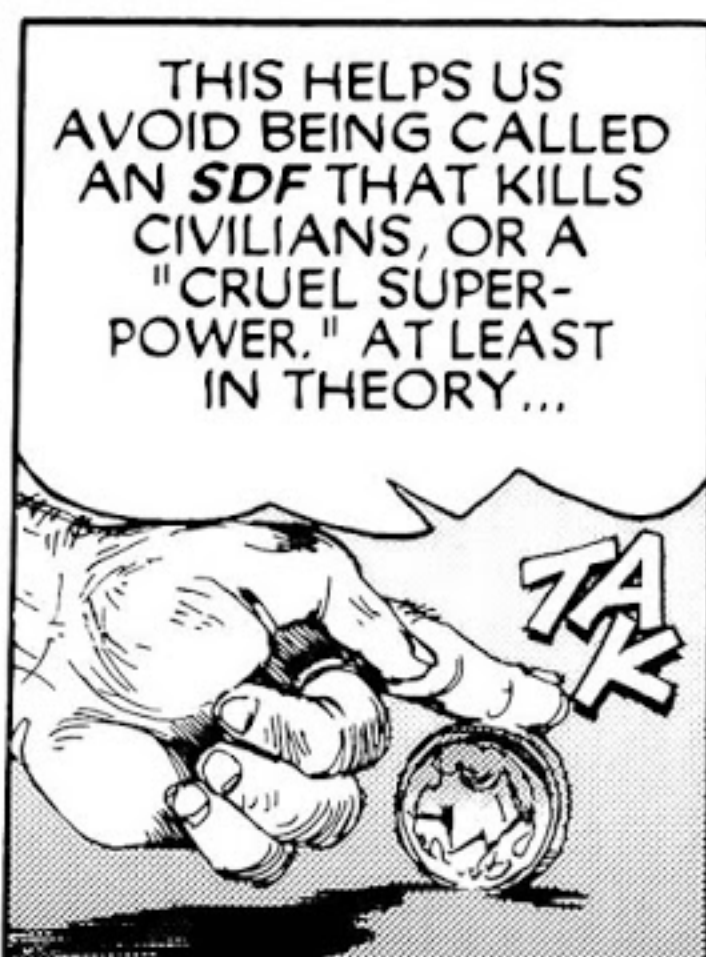






I SAID THE BUDGET HAD PASSED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, BUT THAT WAS A LIE.

INSTEAD, AN "INTERNATIONAL HOSTAGE RESCUE UNIT" WILL BE FORMED WITH THREE TIMES MORE FUNDING THAN YOU REQUESTED.



THIS HELPS US AVOID BEING CALLED AN *SDF* THAT KILLS CIVILIANS, OR A "CRUEL SUPER-POWER." AT LEAST IN THEORY...



EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE BUDGET GOES TO THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL POWER-SUIT ASSAULT FORCE...

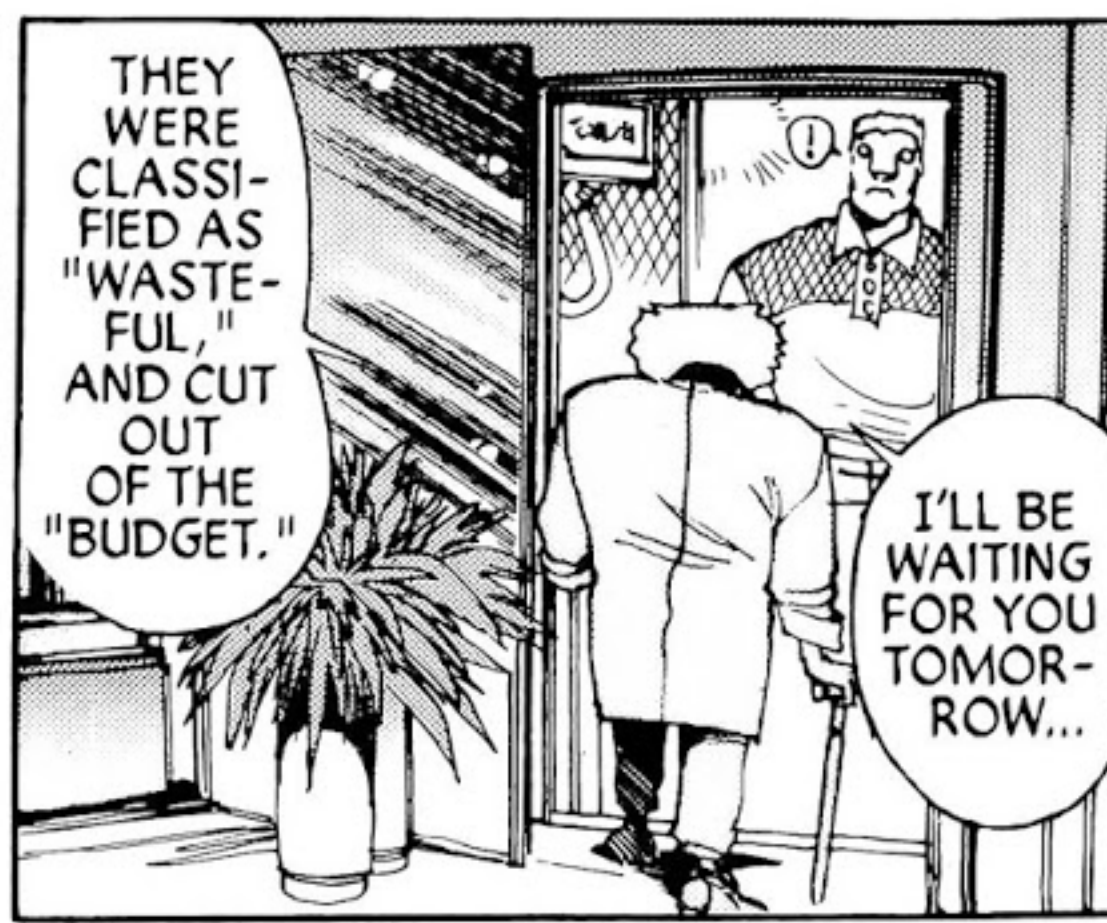
I'LL HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, REPORTING ONLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE UNIT STRUCTURE'LL BE BASED ON SKILL AND MERIT, WITH NO RANKS, AND GIVEN TOP PRIORITY IN PROCUREMENT.

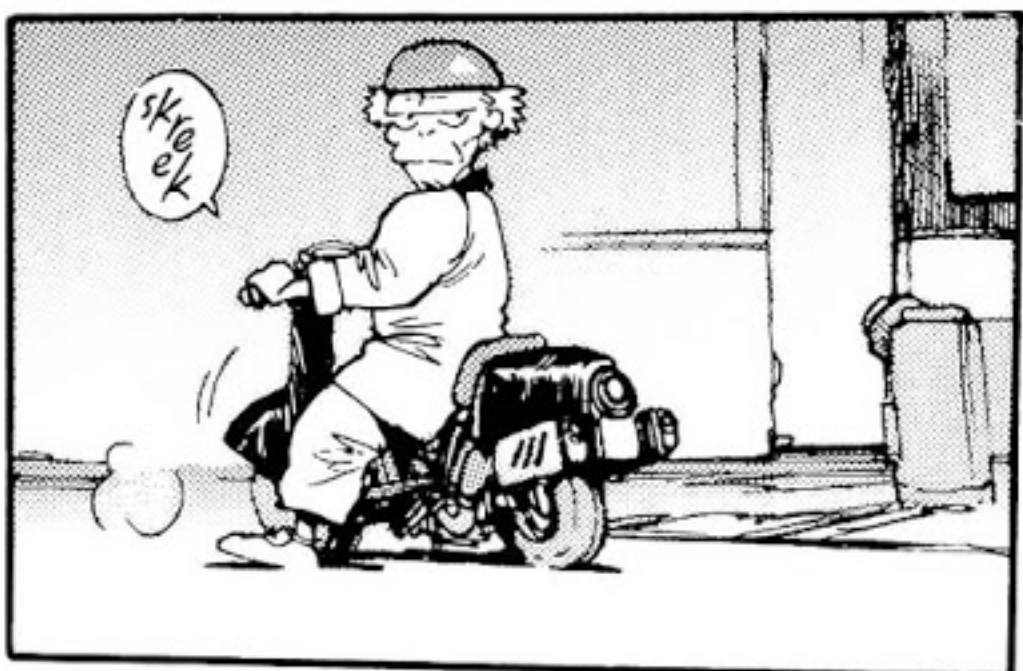
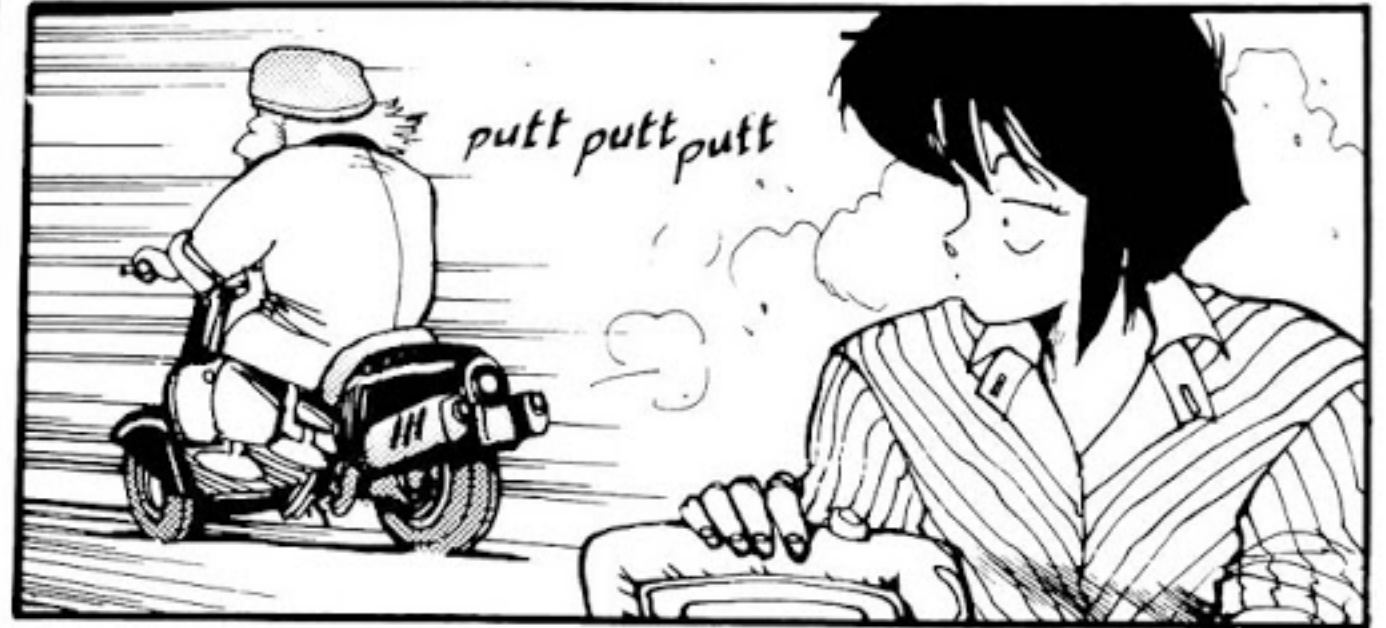


YOU'LL IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND ELIMINATE IT. IT'S THE SORT OF OFFENSIVE UNIT YOU AND I HAVE BOTH DREAMED OF FOR YEARS... BUT NOW IT'S UP TO YOU AND YOUR MEN.



ANOTHER ROUND OF THE SAME FOR EVERYONE...





03

U U N K
JUNGLE

27. 7. 2029





DAMMIT...
NO AIR
CONDITIONING.
WHAT THE **HELL**
AM I DOING
HERE?

I
OUGHTA
QUIT...

DON'T
LEAVE
ME HERE,
GUYS!

SKS
SH
SKS
SH
SKS
SH



OKAY, I
OUGHTA BE
PRETTY HARD
TO SPOT IN
DAYLIGHT
LIKE THIS...

I'M JUST
NOT CUT
OUT FOR
THIS ROUND-
THE-CLOCK
OBSERVA-
TION...

SKS
SH
SKS
SH
SKS
SH



HMM...
PRESSURE-
SENSITIVE
TRIGGERS
AND A
GORGON
MINE? OR
IS IT A
DUMMY
...?

EITHER
WAY, WHAT
A WASTE! I
OUGHTA TAKE
IT HOME
AS A SOU-
VENIR...



GORGON MINE: AN ENGLISH-TYPE ANTI-PERSONNEL CANISTER MINE THAT JUMPS UP ABOUT TWO METERS WHEN TRIGGERED AND THEN SCATTERS AROUND A HUNDRED MINI-MINES (TRIGGERED TWO SECONDS AFTER LANDING BY ANY VIBRATION OCCURRING WITHIN A THREE METER RADIUS).



SNAP



PSST,
IT'S
ME...

CHAK



WELL,
SEE ANY-
THING?

AFTER THIRTY-
TWO HOURS ON
STAKEOUT, I'VE HAD
TWO PHONE CALLS,
AND THAT'S ALL...
NO REPLACEMENT,
NO PIZZA, NO
NOTHING...



WELL,
HERE,
HAVE A
SWIG...

DON'T
MIND IF I
DO...



JUST AS ONE
OF OUR KOREAN
SOURCES
WARNED... THE
"PUPPETEER" HAS
STARTED TO
MEDDLE WITH
EACH TERMINAL
IN THE NET-
WORK.

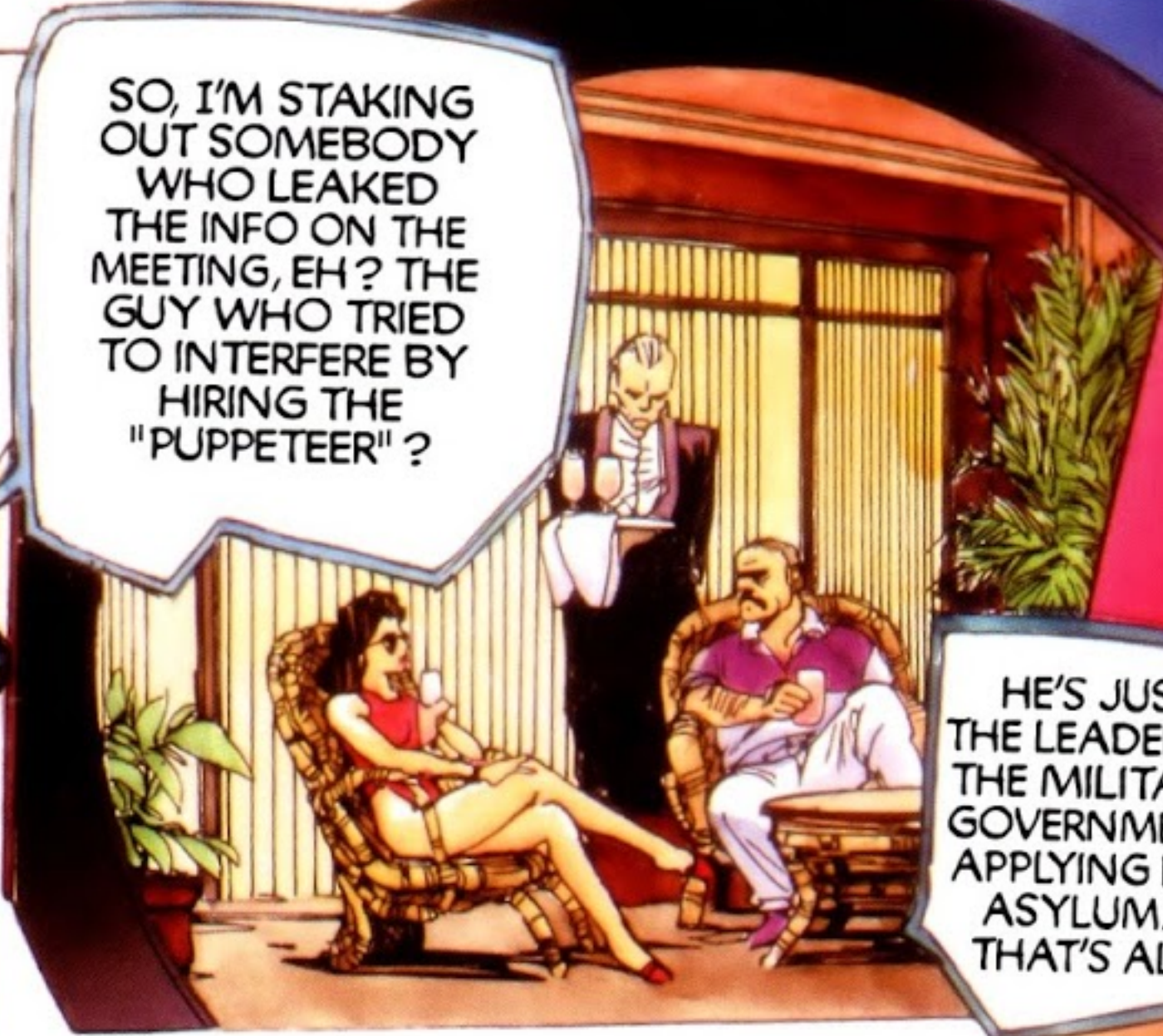
YOU MEAN THE
MYSTERY "SUPER
HACKER"...? THAT'S
GOT SOMETHING
TO DO WITH THIS
STAKE-OUT?

HEY! DID
YOU WATER
THIS STUFF
DOWN?



FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THEY'RE PLANNING ON INTERFERING WITH THE SECRET MEETING WITH THE **GAVEL REPUBLIC**...

WELL, IN THAT CASE, IT'S HARDLY A **SECRET** MEETING, IS IT...

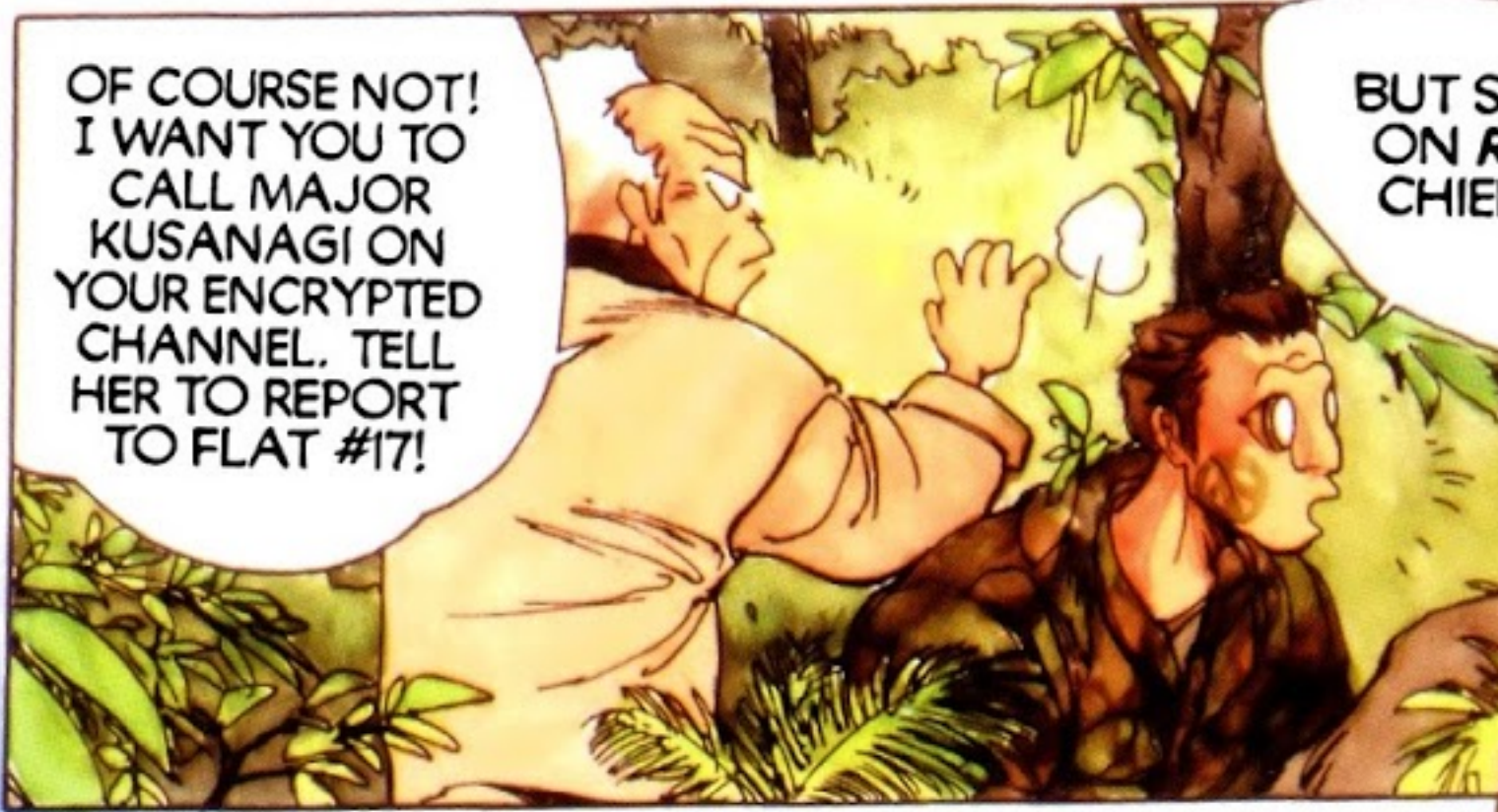


SO, I'M STAKING OUT SOMEBODY WHO LEAKED THE INFO ON THE MEETING, EH? THE GUY WHO TRIED TO INTERFERE BY HIRING THE "PUPPETEER"?

HE'S JUST THE LEADER OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, APPLYING FOR ASYLUM... THAT'S ALL.



YOU CAME OUT HERE JUST TO TELL ME **THAT**?



OF COURSE NOT! I WANT YOU TO CALL MAJOR KUSANAGI ON YOUR ENCRYPTED CHANNEL. TELL HER TO REPORT TO FLAT #17!

BUT SHE'S ON **R&R**, CHIEF...

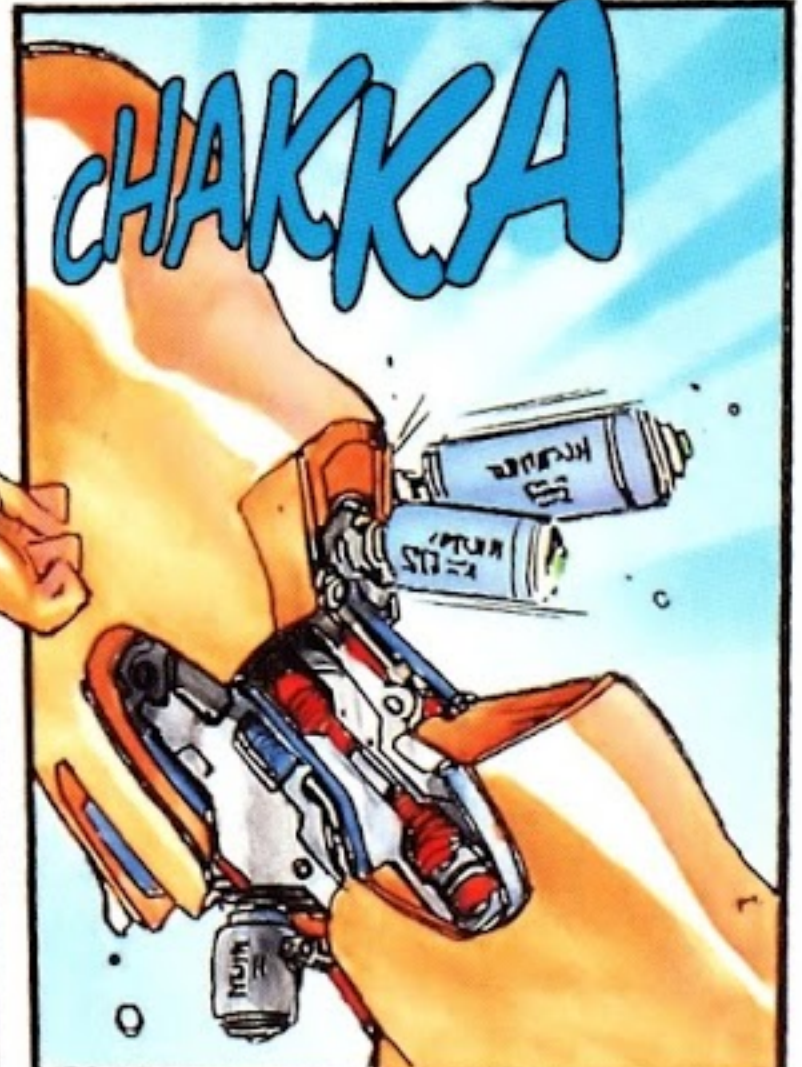


WELL, IT'S CAN-CELED...

UH-OH...

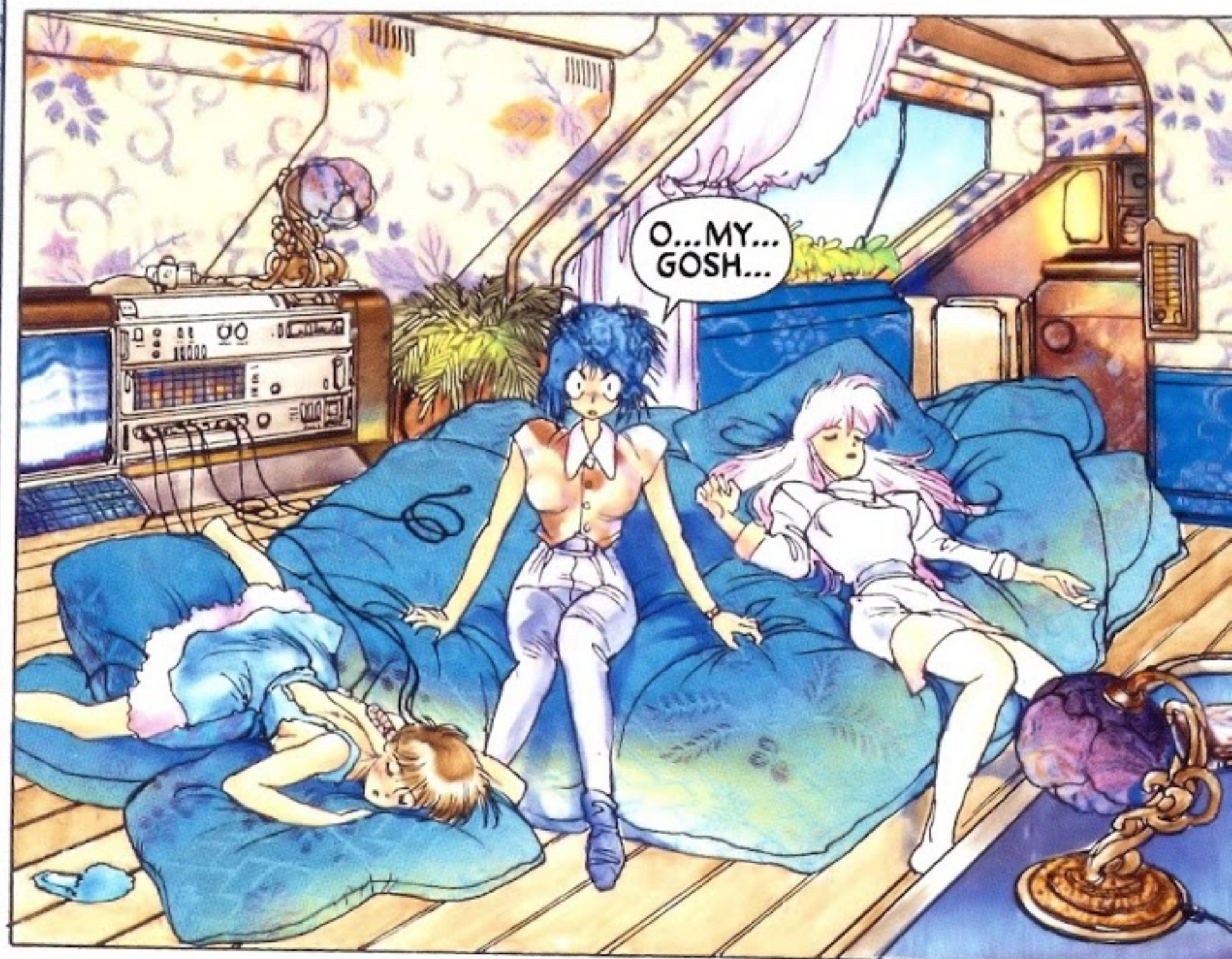




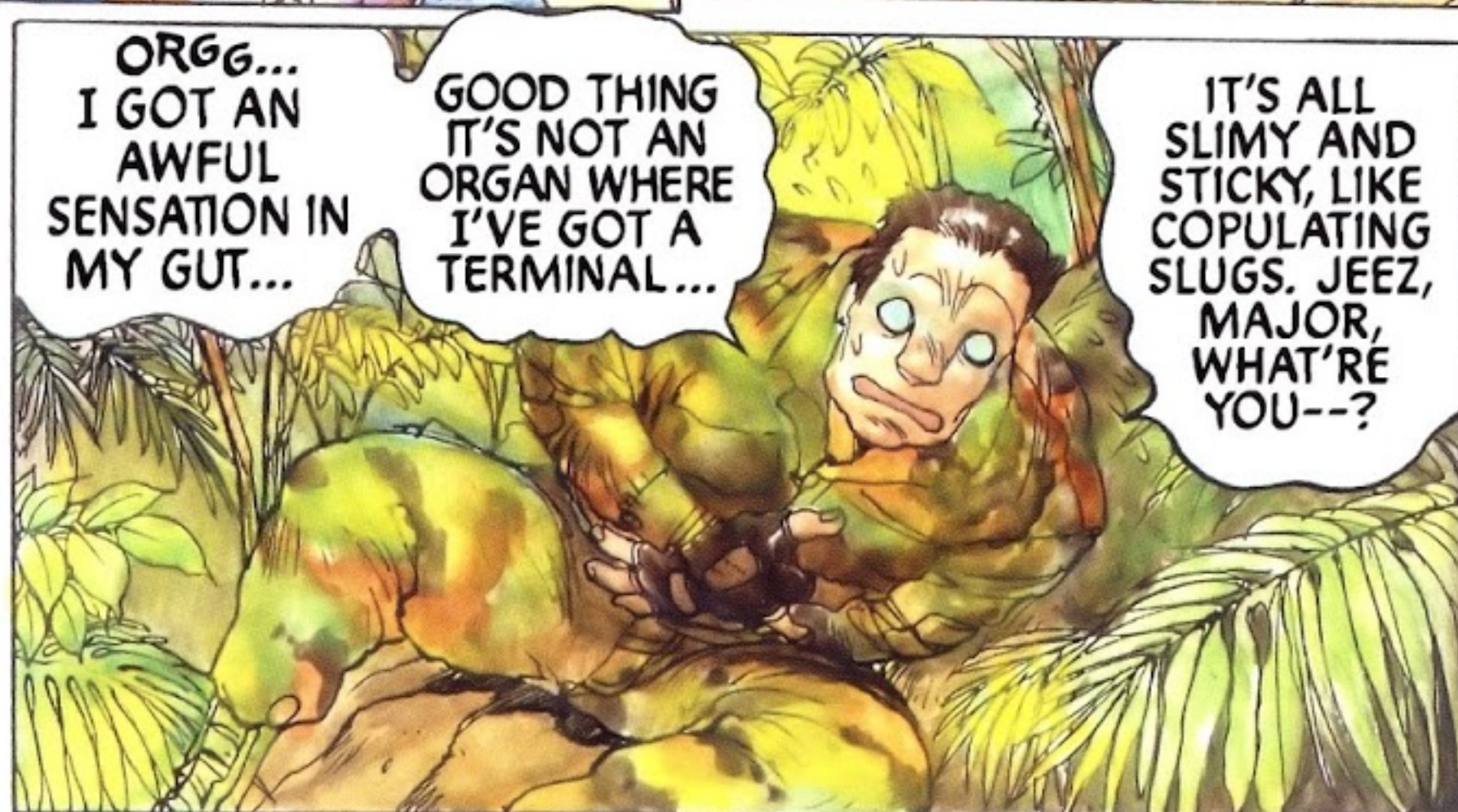




HH?



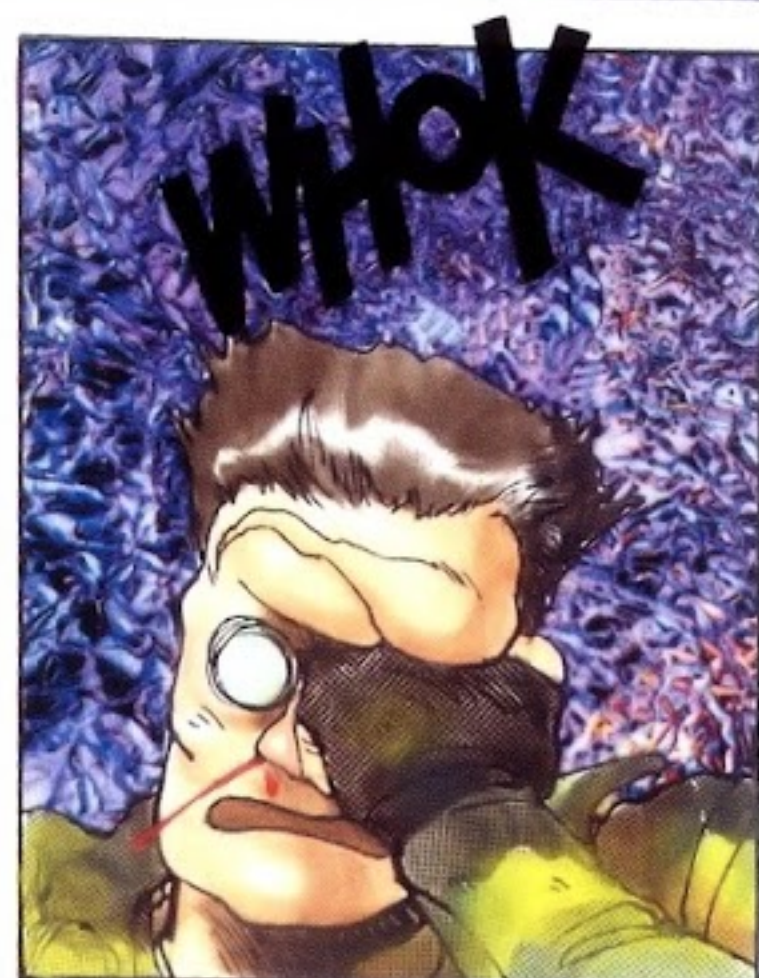
O...MY...
GOSH...



ORGG...
I GOT AN
AWFUL
SENSATION IN
MY GUT...

GOOD THING
IT'S NOT AN
ORGAN WHERE
I'VE GOT A
TERMINAL...

IT'S ALL
SLIMY AND
STICKY, LIKE
COPULATING
SLUGS. JEEZ,
MAJOR,
WHAT'RE
YOU--?



MAJOR!
YOU'VE
BEEN
SUM-
MONED
TO #17!
CHIEF'S
ORDER!

TELL THE
OLD FART
I'LL BE
THERE IN 20
MINUTES!



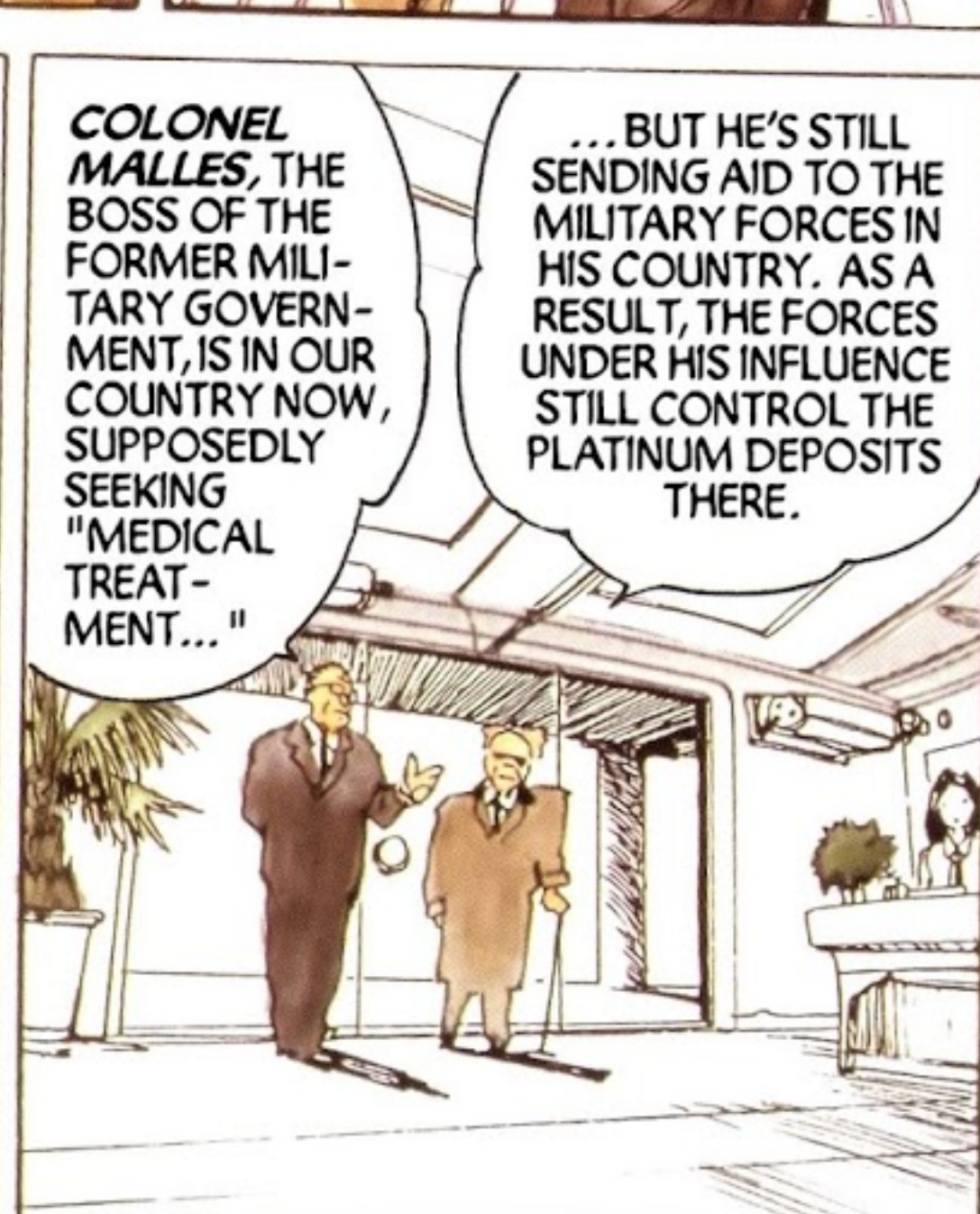
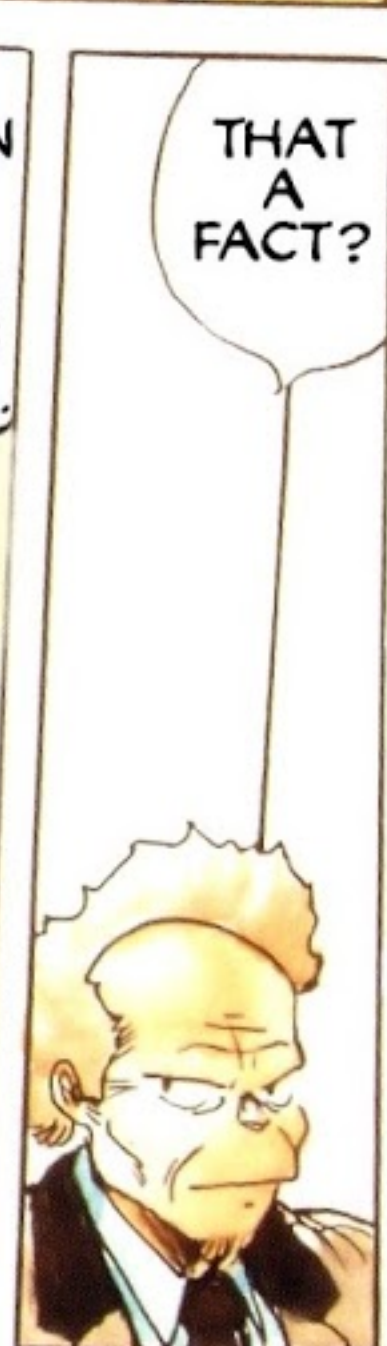
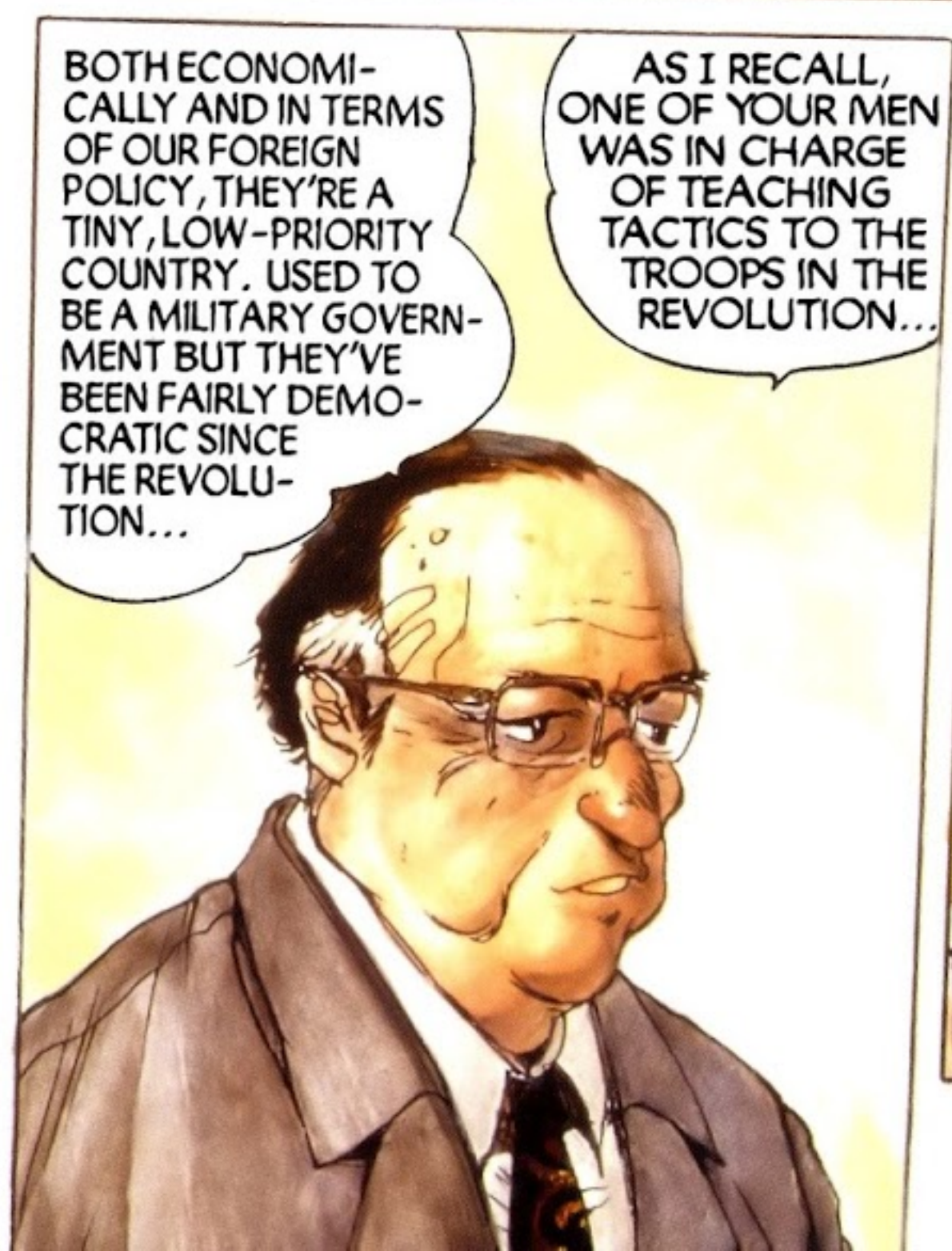
MOTOKO, HOW
COULD YOU!? THIS
ALWAYS HAPPENS,
BUT STILL--YOU
PROMISED TO
SPEND YOUR LEAVE
WITH US!

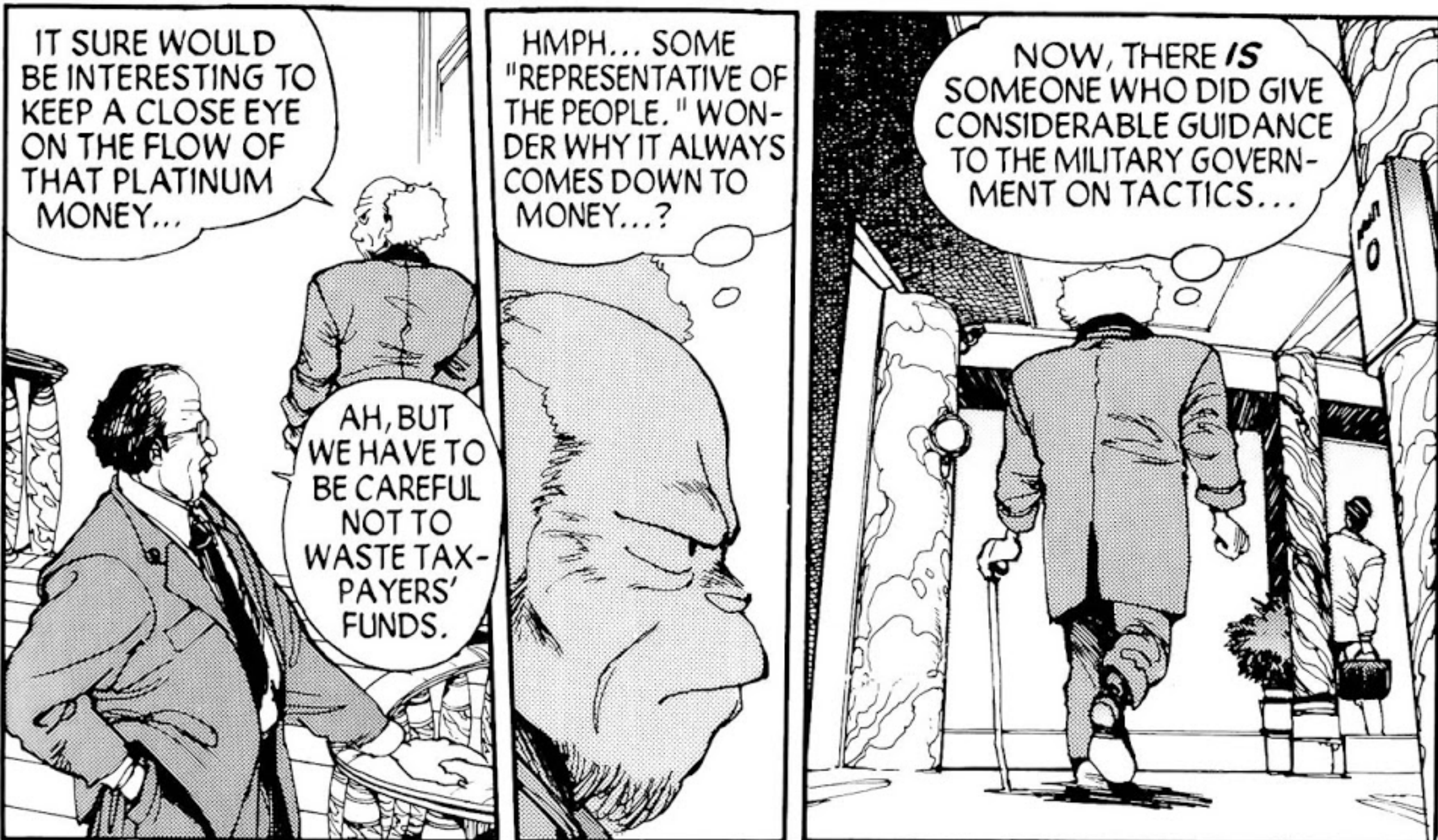
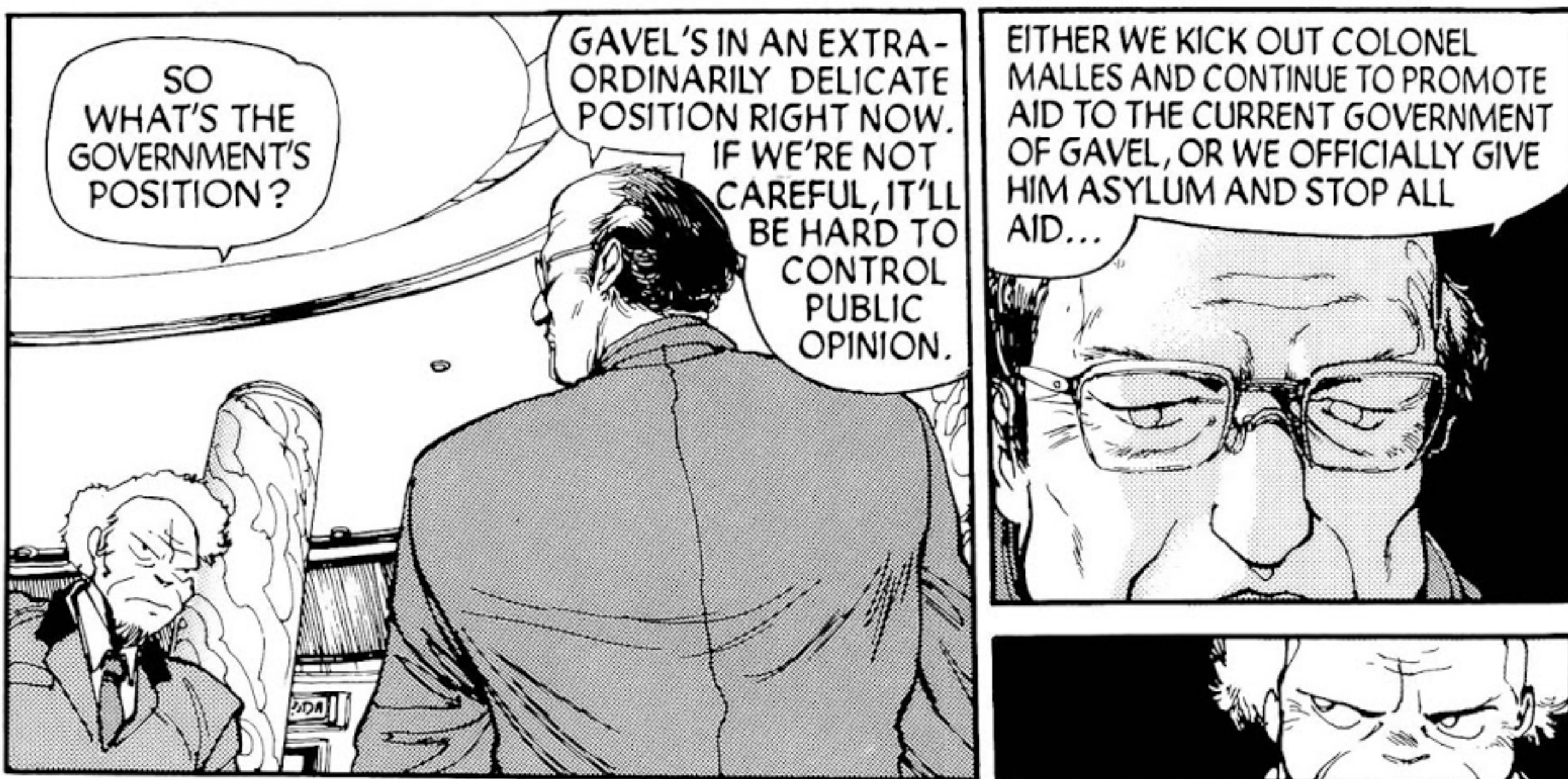
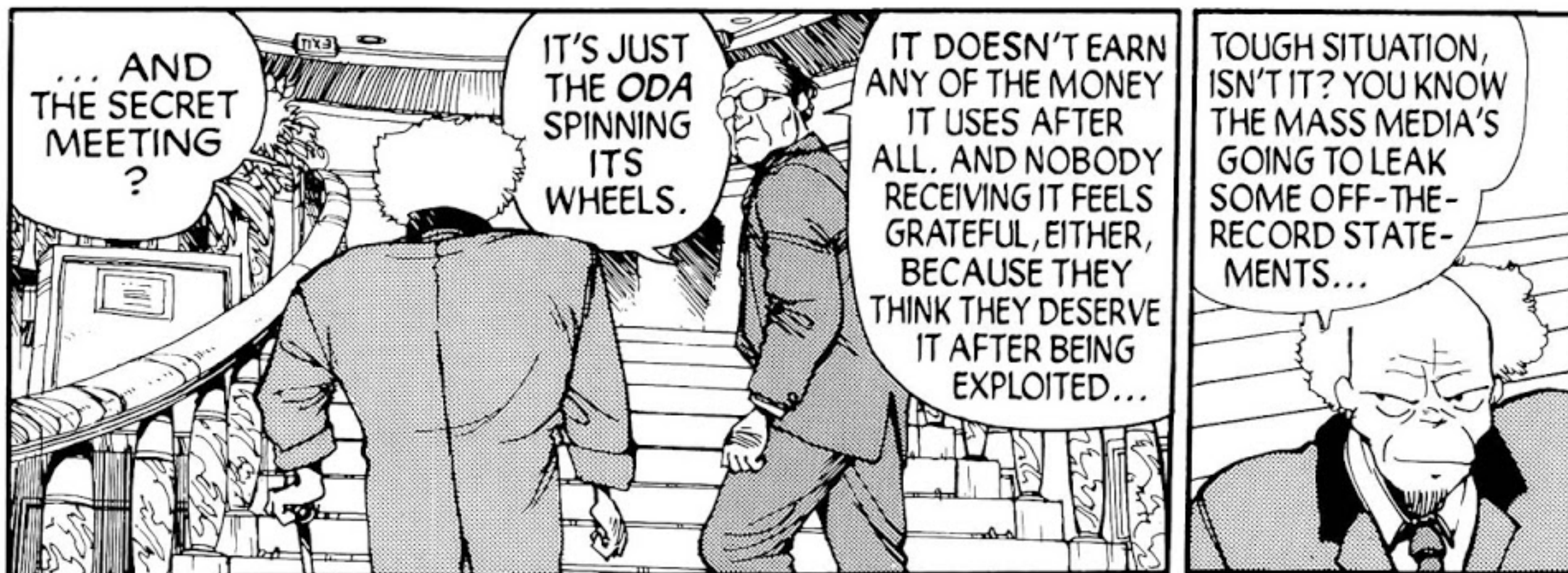
WELL, THE
DRUG'S LOCKED
OUT NOW,
AND MY
LEAVE'S BEEN
CANCELLED...

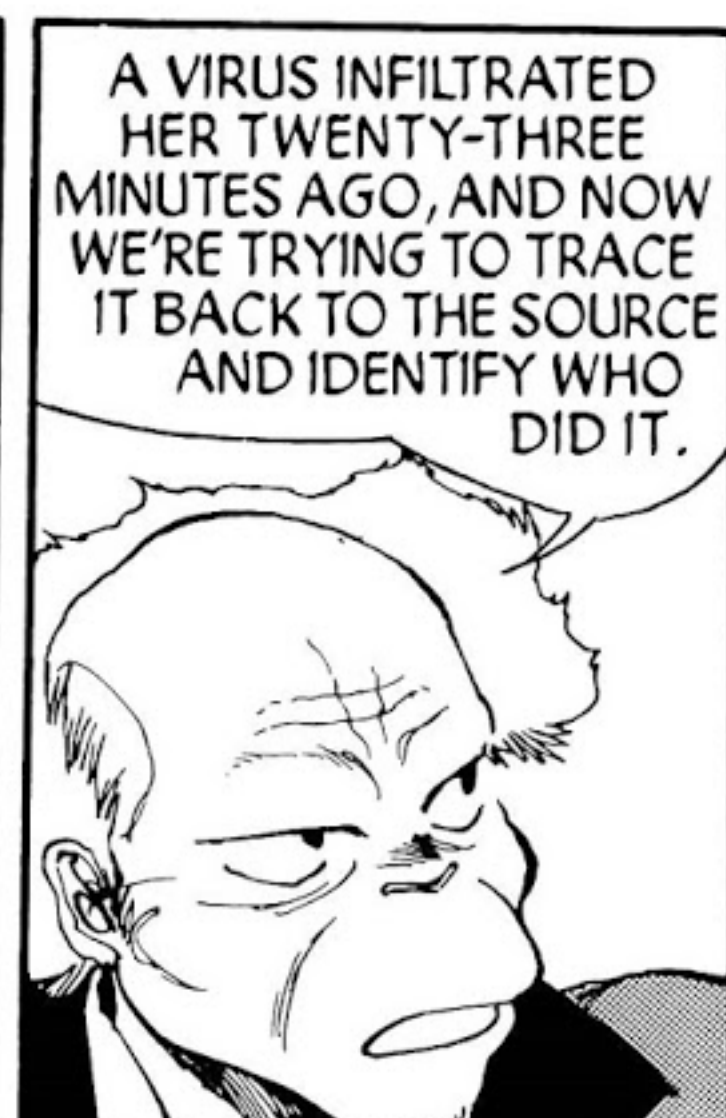
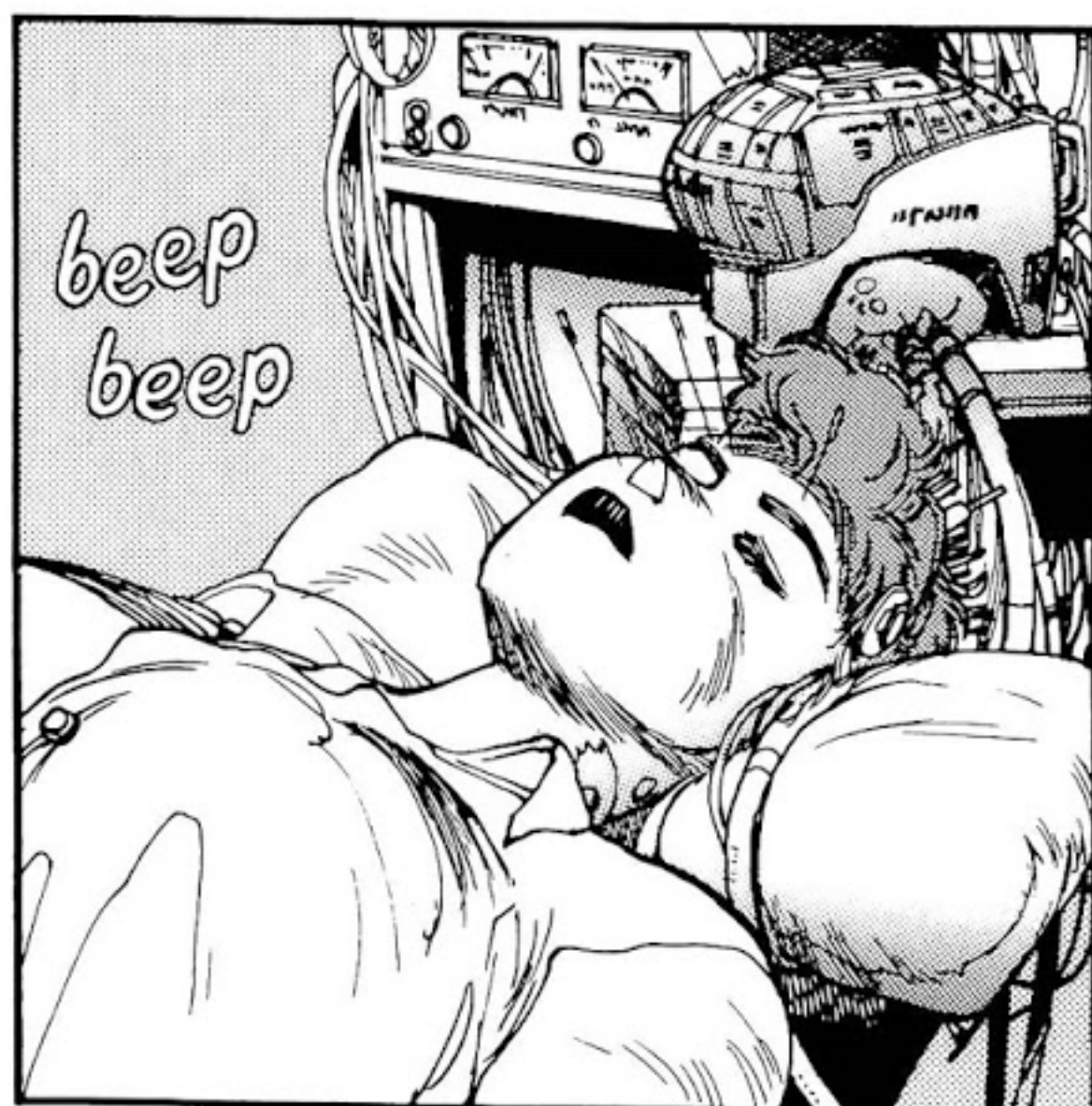


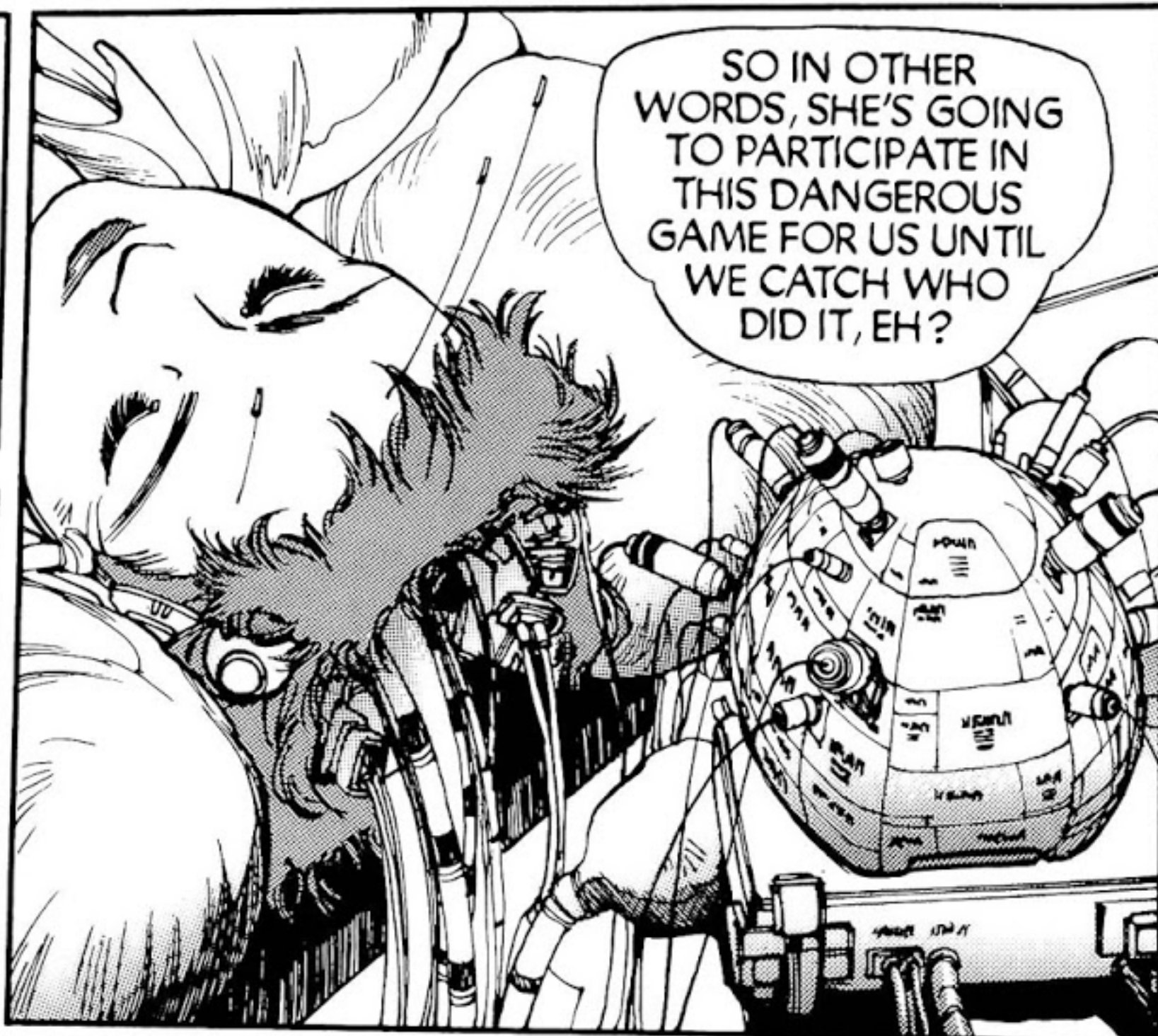
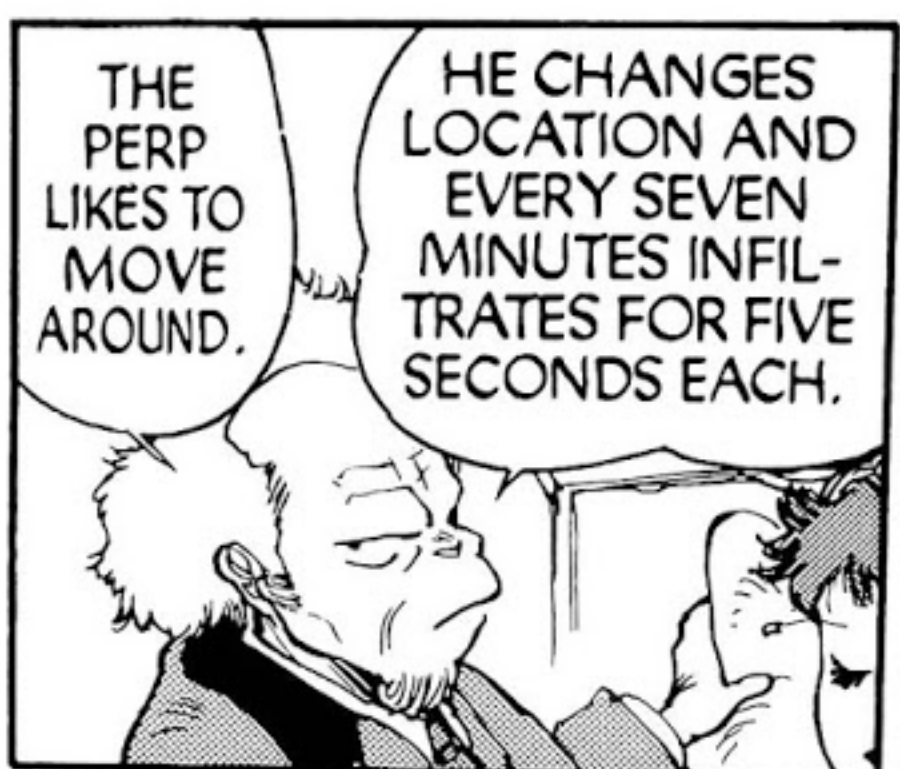
HEY,
DON'T
TAKE
THE
EQUAL-
IZER...!

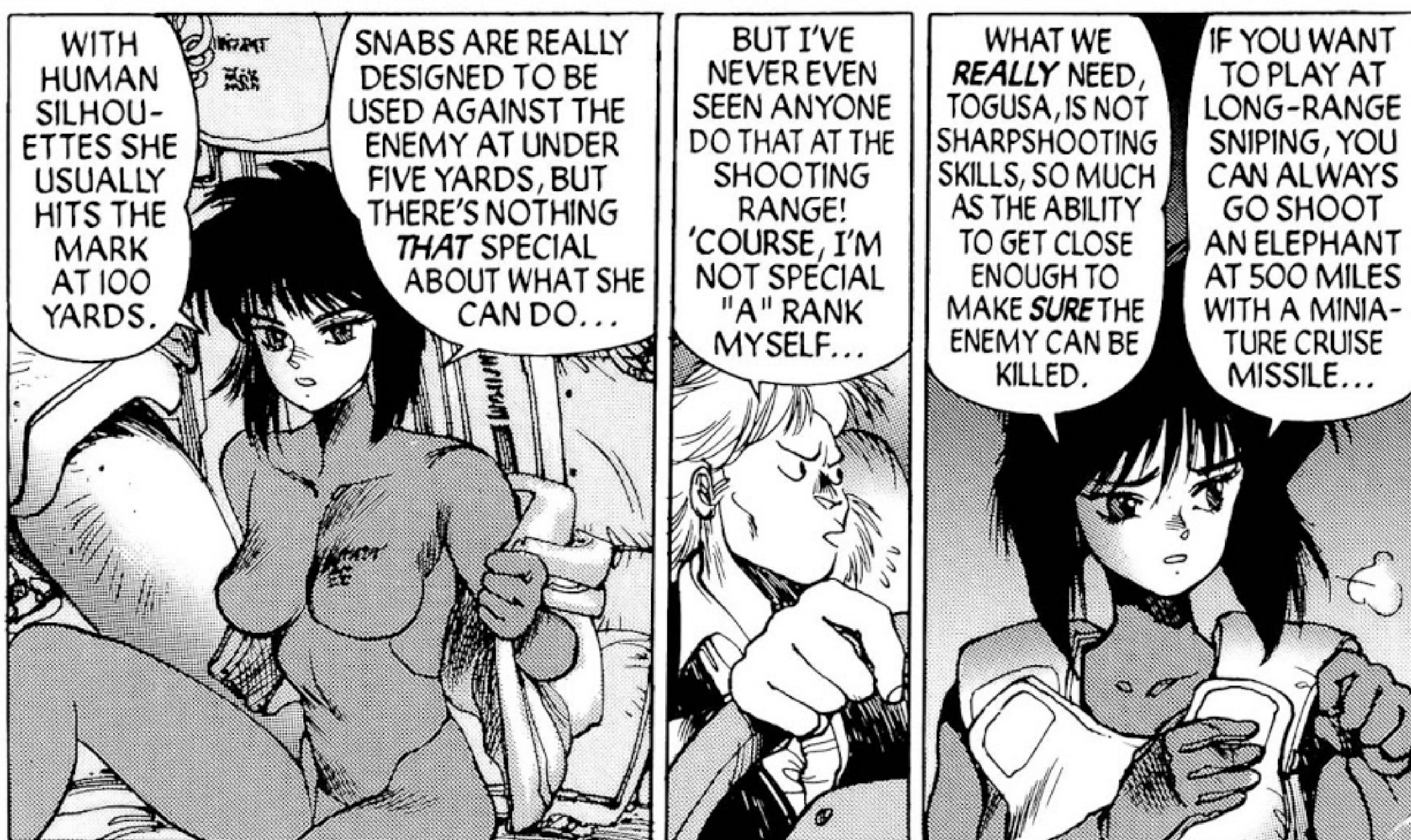
WHEN
YOU LEAVE
MAKE SURE
YOU LOCK
THE DOOR.
I'LL CALL
YOU
LATER...
TA TA!











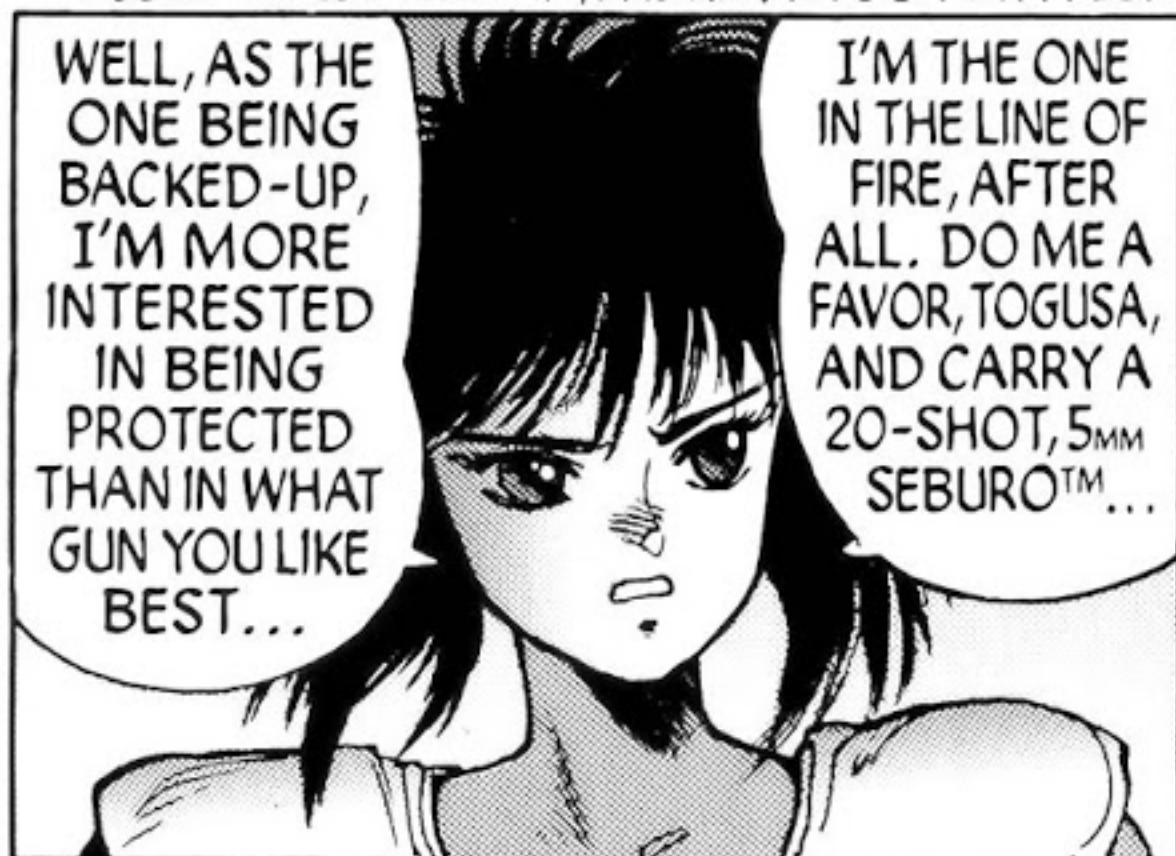


BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU USING A REVOLVER FOR YOUR MAIN GUN?

IN A TWO-MAN CELL, AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF IT JAMMING, EVEN IF YOU'RE CARRYING TWO GUNS?

I HAPPEN TO LIKE THE M2007!

SEBURO™ C-25: THINK OF IT AS AN FN P90 WITH A LOWER MAGAZINE!

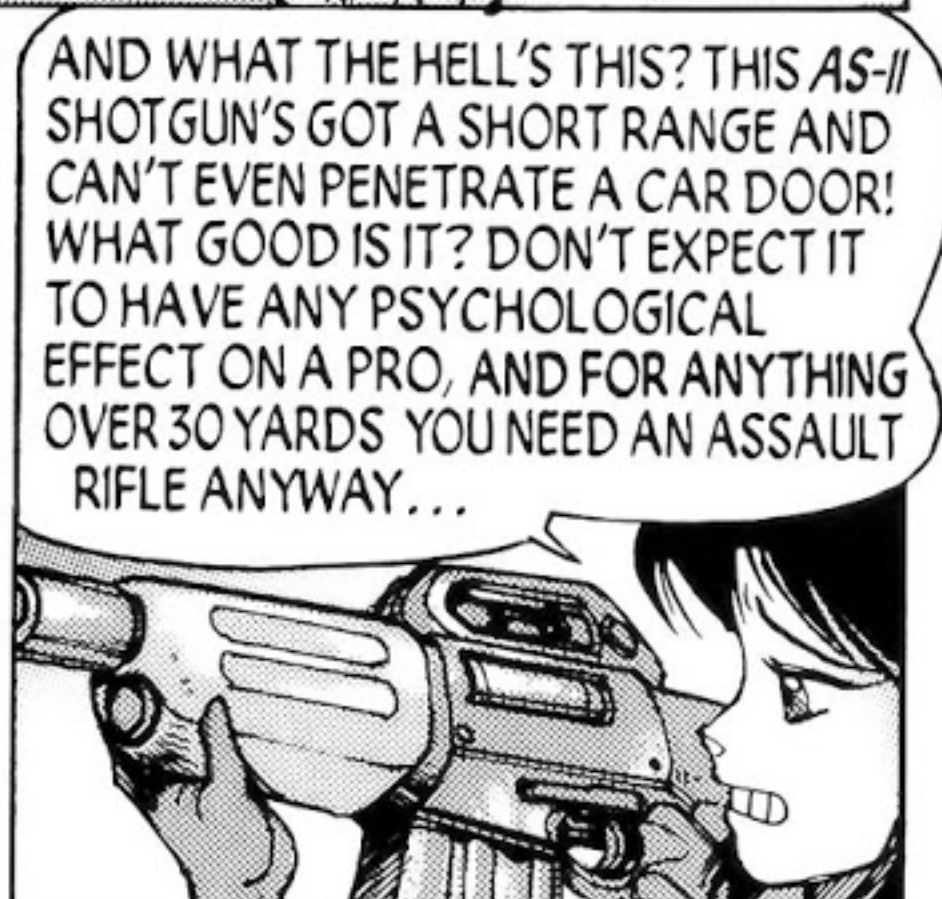


WELL, AS THE ONE BEING BACKED-UP, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN BEING PROTECTED THAN IN WHAT GUN YOU LIKE BEST...

I'M THE ONE IN THE LINE OF FIRE, AFTER ALL. DO ME A FAVOR, TOGUSA, AND CARRY A 20-SHOT, 5MM SEBURO™...



YEAH, YEAH... SHIT.



AND WHAT THE HELL'S THIS? THIS AS-// SHOTGUN'S GOT A SHORT RANGE AND CAN'T EVEN PENETRATE A CAR DOOR! WHAT GOOD IS IT? DON'T EXPECT IT TO HAVE ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON A PRO, AND FOR ANYTHING OVER 30 YARDS YOU NEED AN ASSAULT RIFLE ANYWAY...

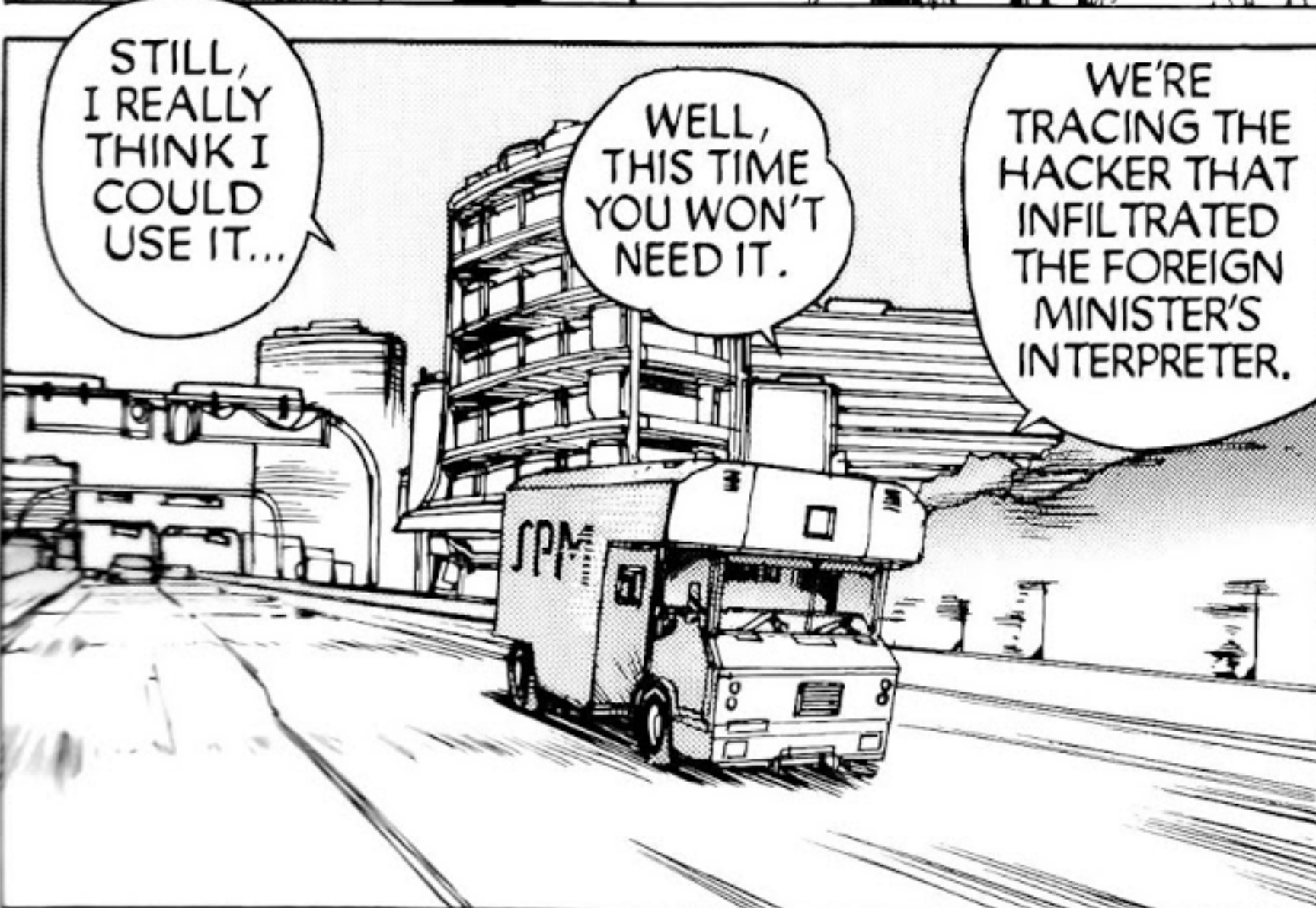


HEY, IT'LL GO THROUGH A MERCEDES DOOR--I'VE GOT IT FILLED WITH SLUGS.

AND IN-DOORS I CAN USE IT TO BLAST A HOLE IN WALLS...

SURE YOU'RE NOT CONFUSING HUNTING HUMANS WITH MAKING MINCE-MEAT?

FOR CLOSE-RANGE WORK AND PIERCING POWER USE THE SEBURO™, FOR WALLS AND DISTANCE USE A RIFLE!



STILL, I REALLY THINK I COULD USE IT...

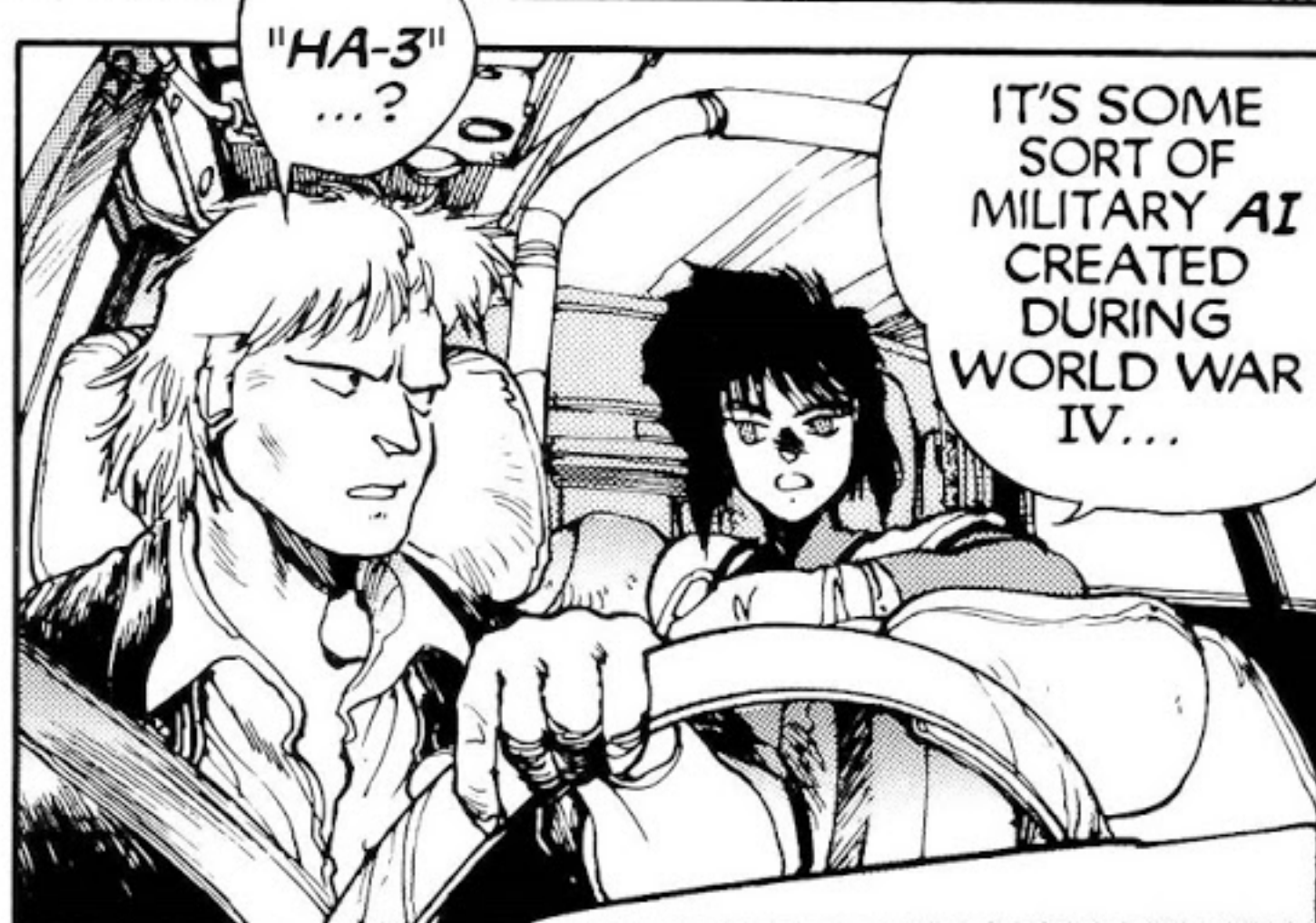
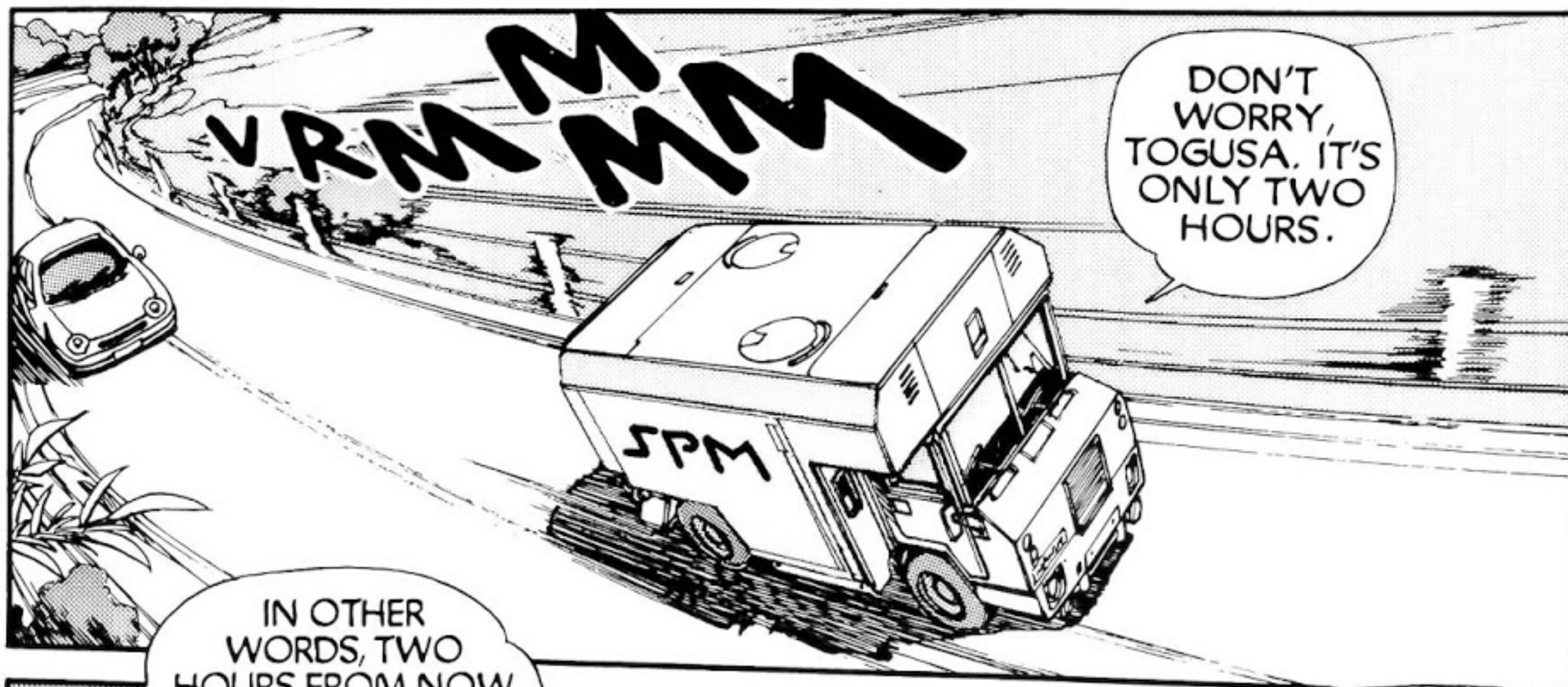
WELL, THIS TIME YOU WON'T NEED IT.

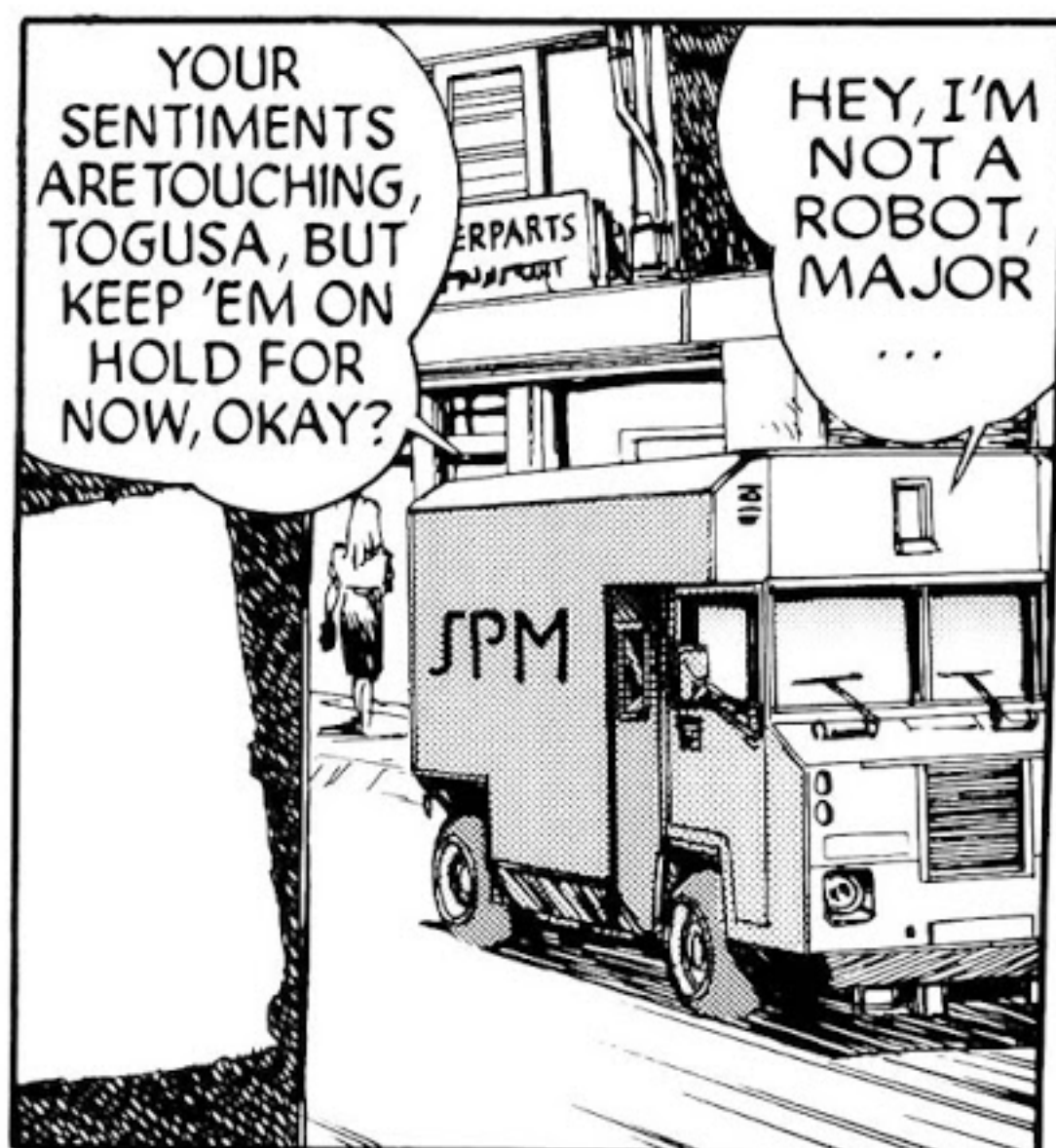
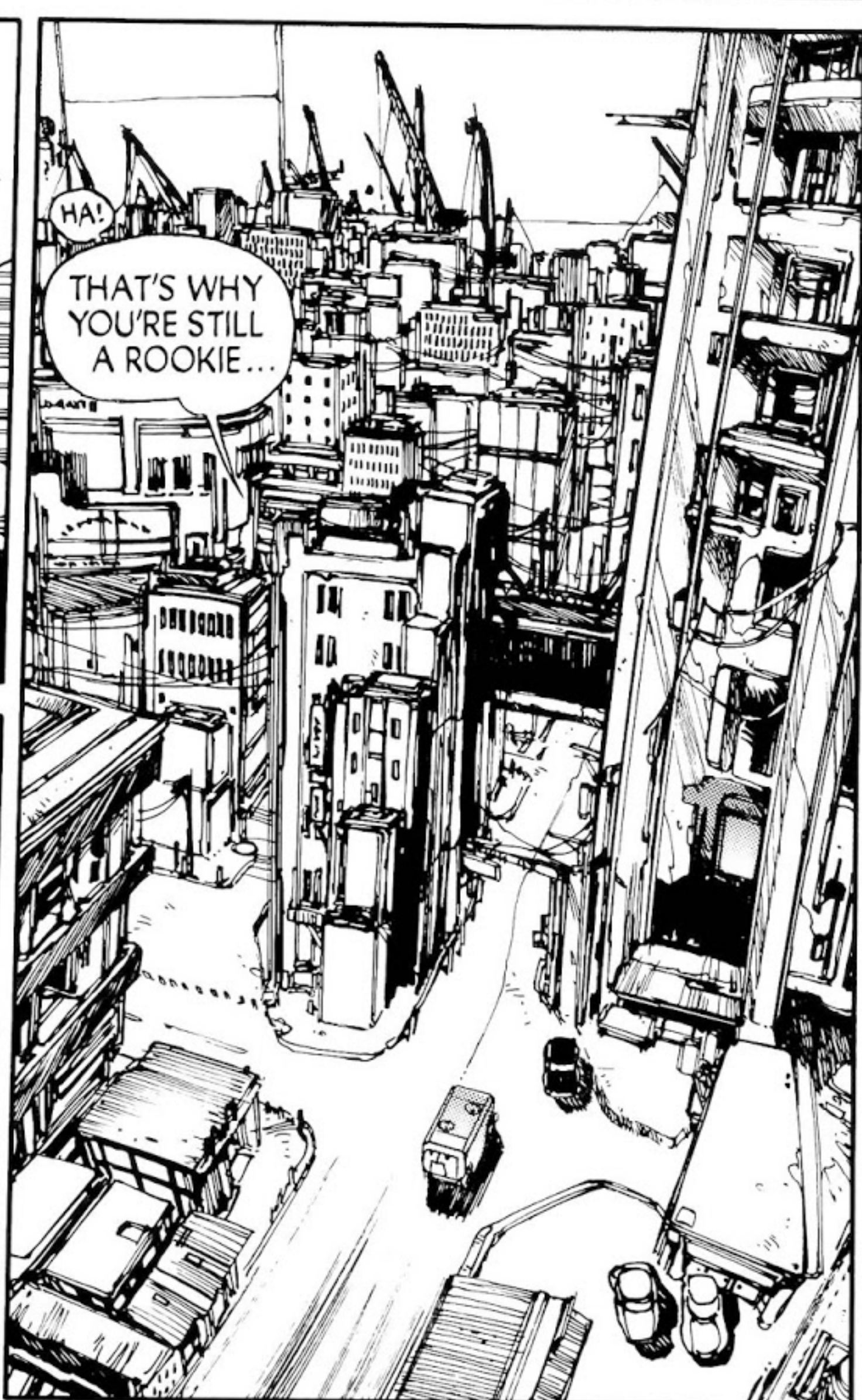
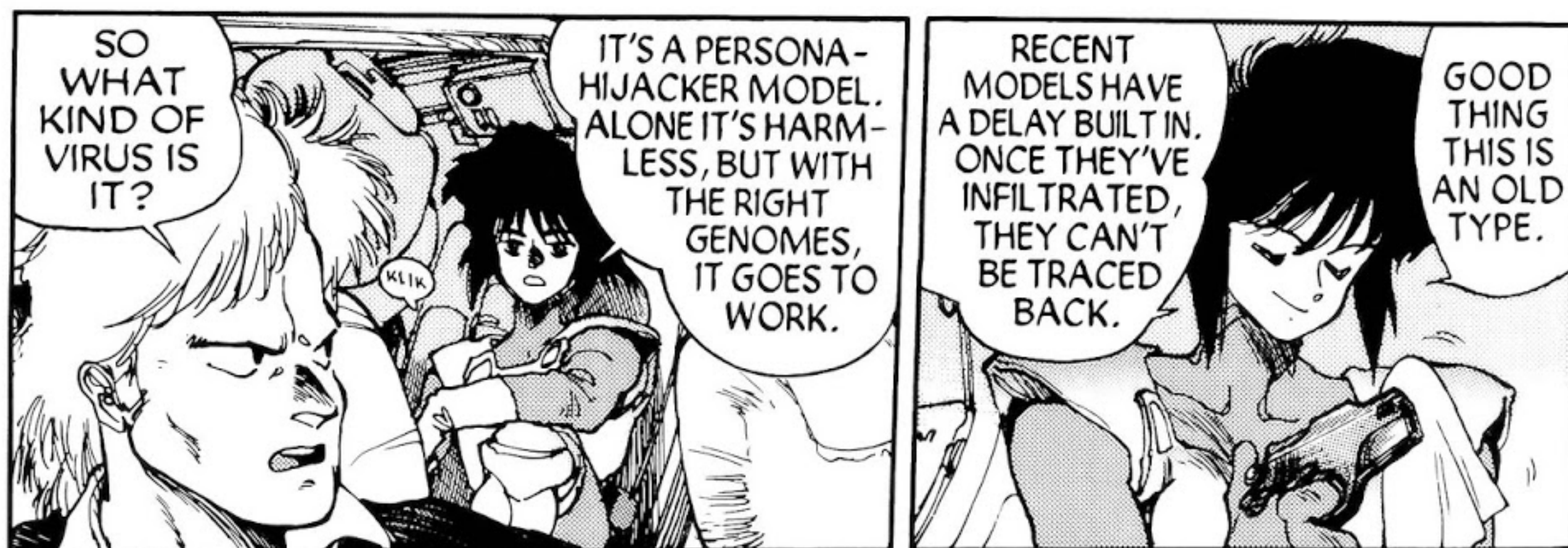
WE'RE TRACING THE HACKER THAT INFILTRATED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTERPRETER.



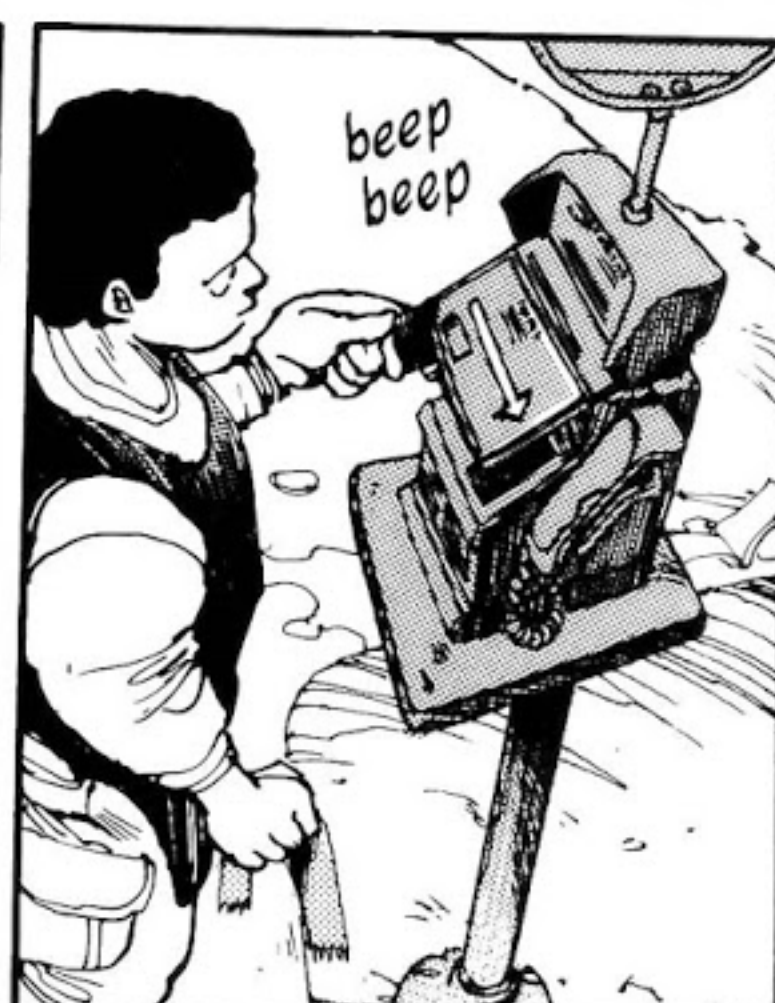
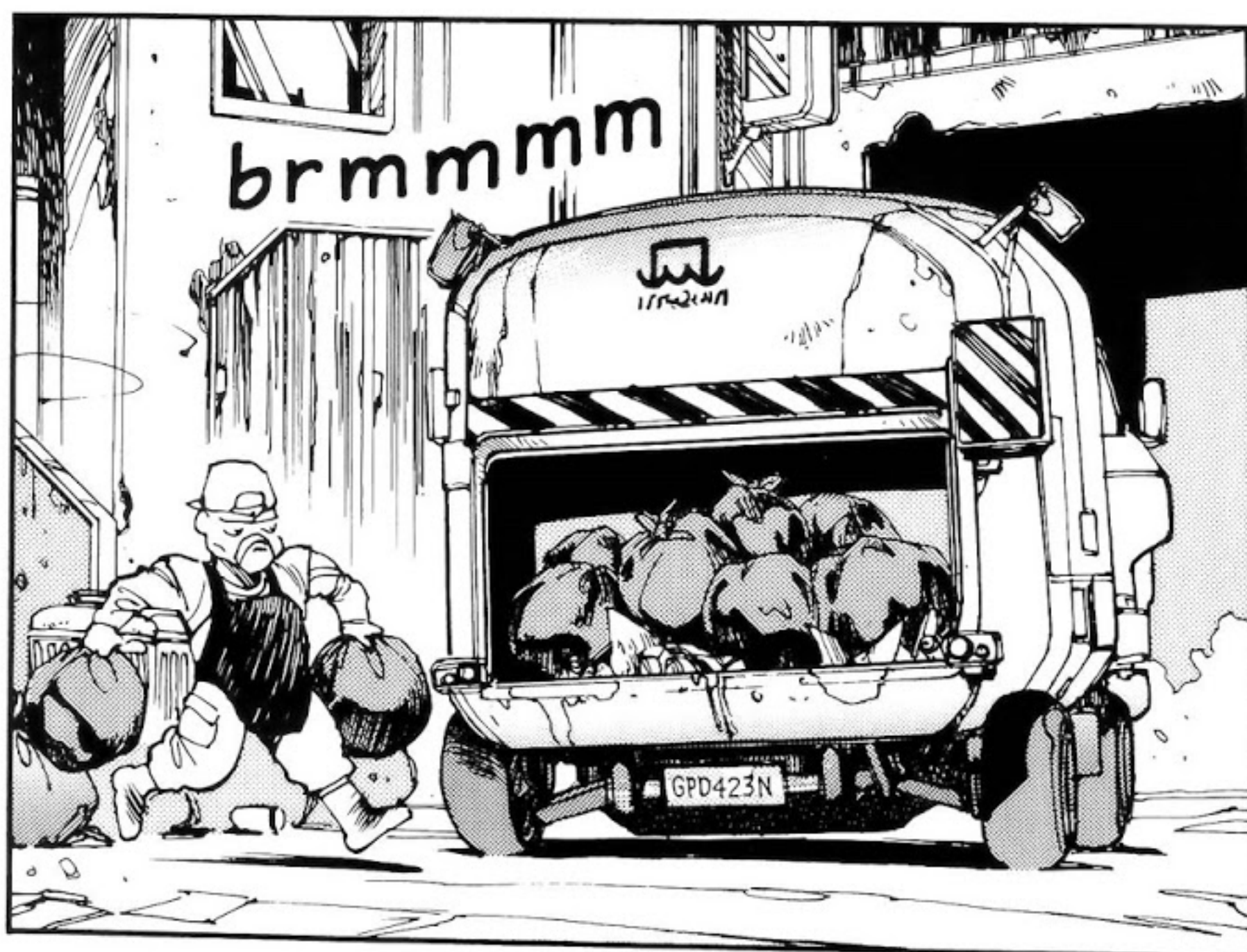
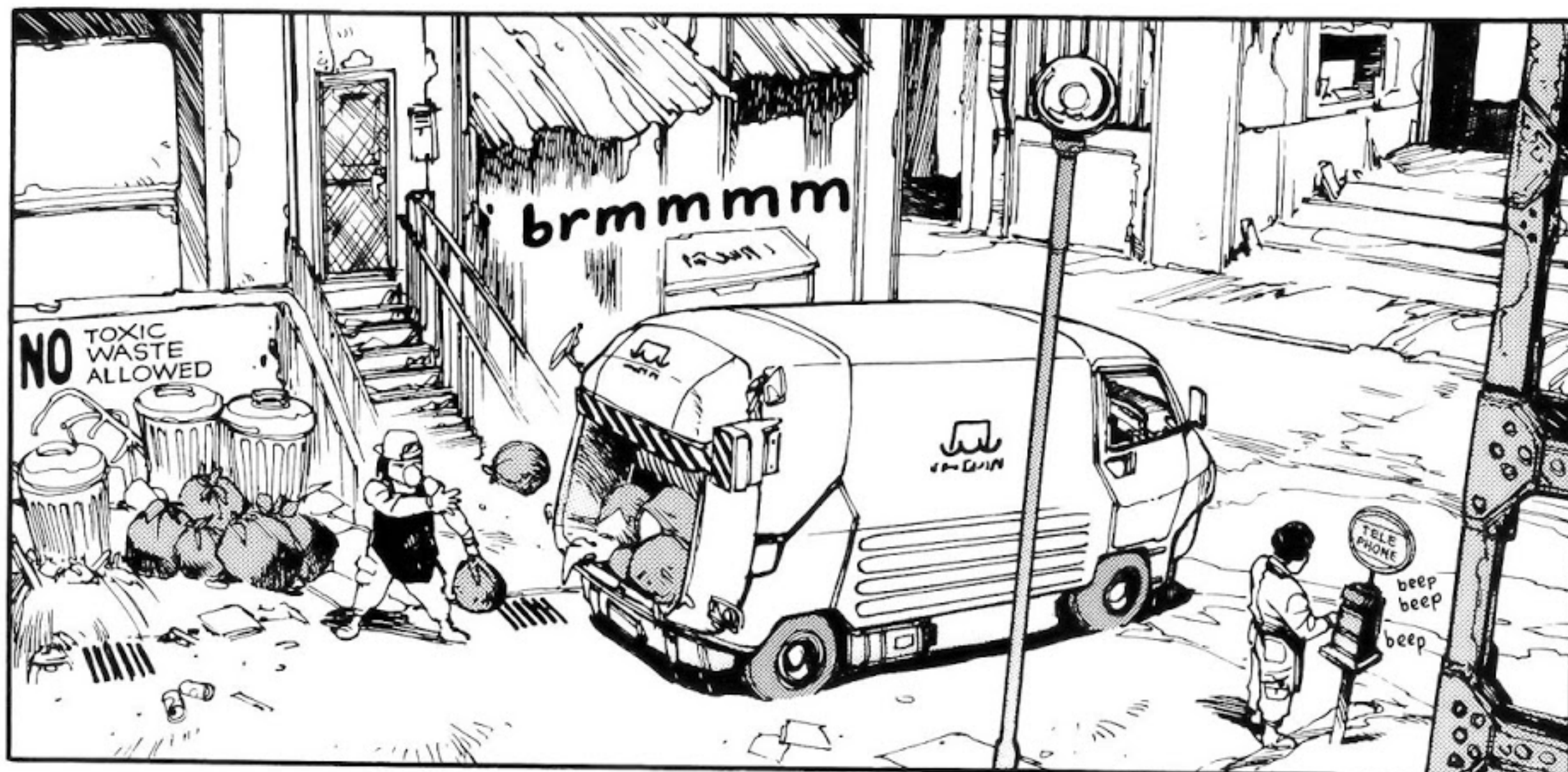
HIS INTERPRETER ?!

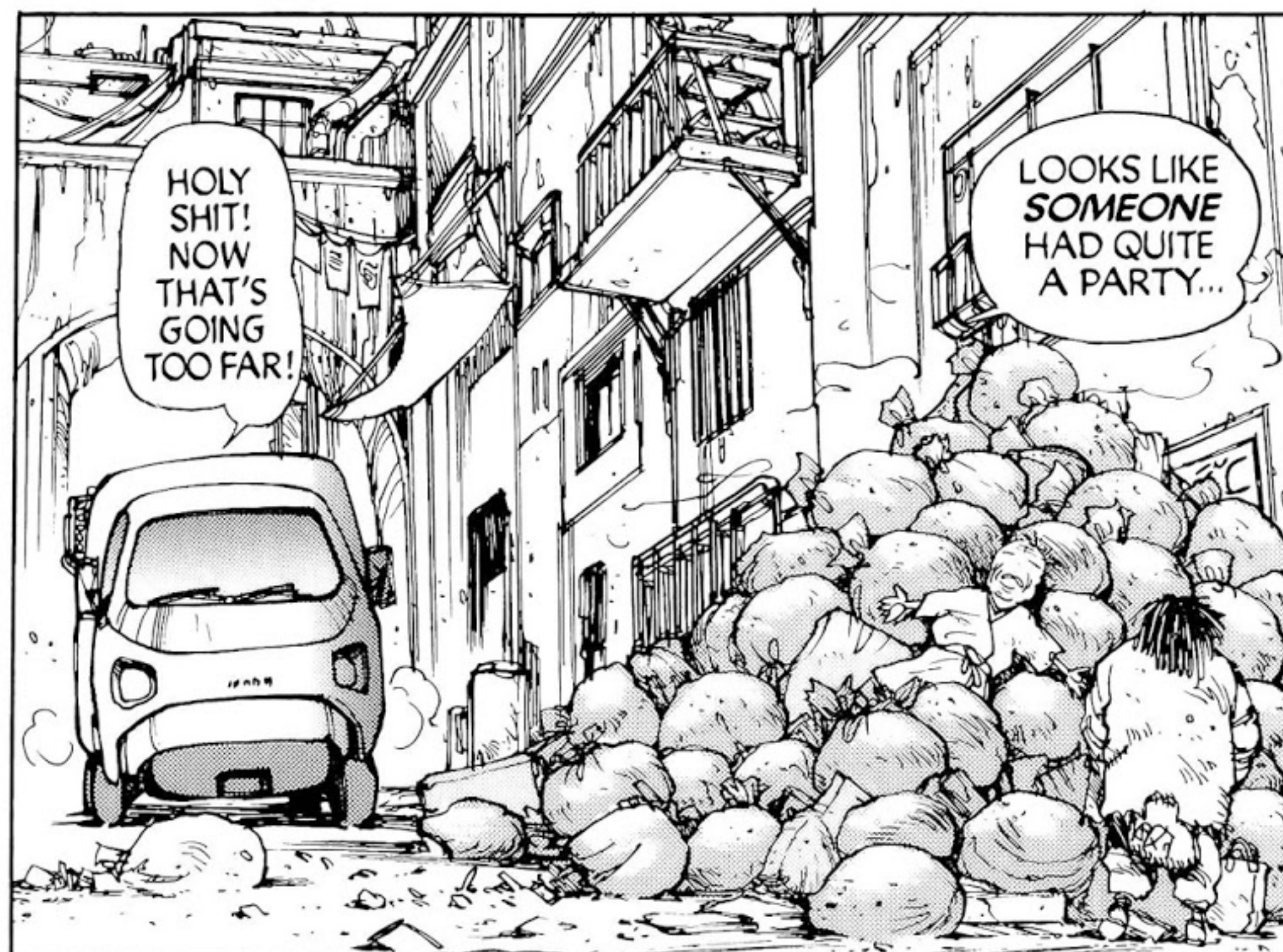
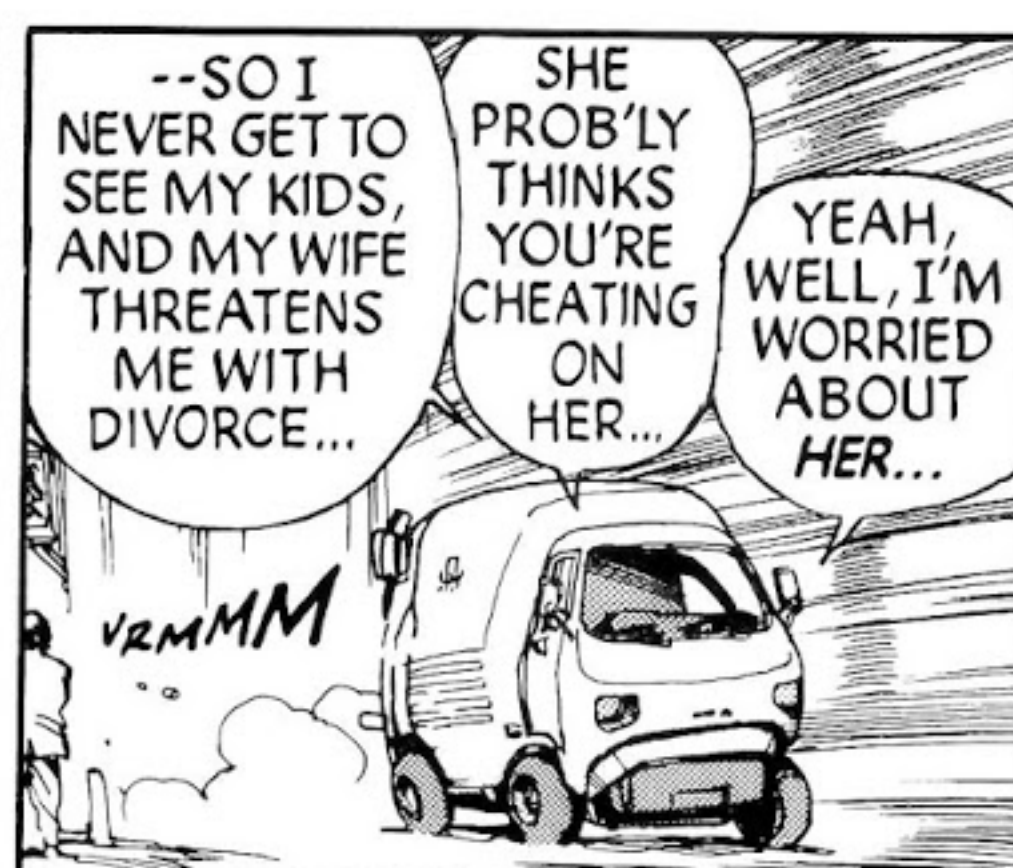
YOU MEAN-- !!!?

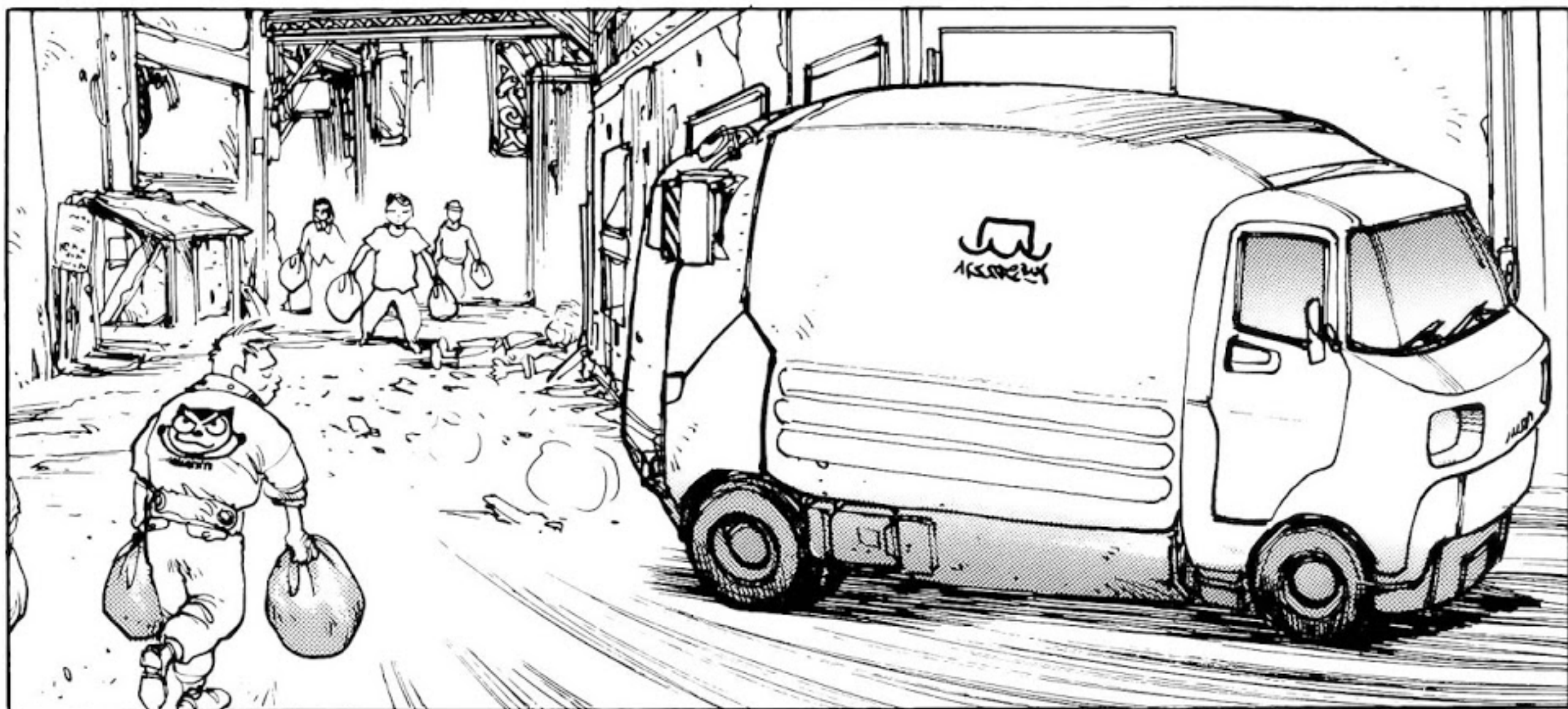




After this, there's a scene where Mokoto takes over the driving and Togusa checks his gear and puts it on, but it was too much of a hassle to draw so I left it out...





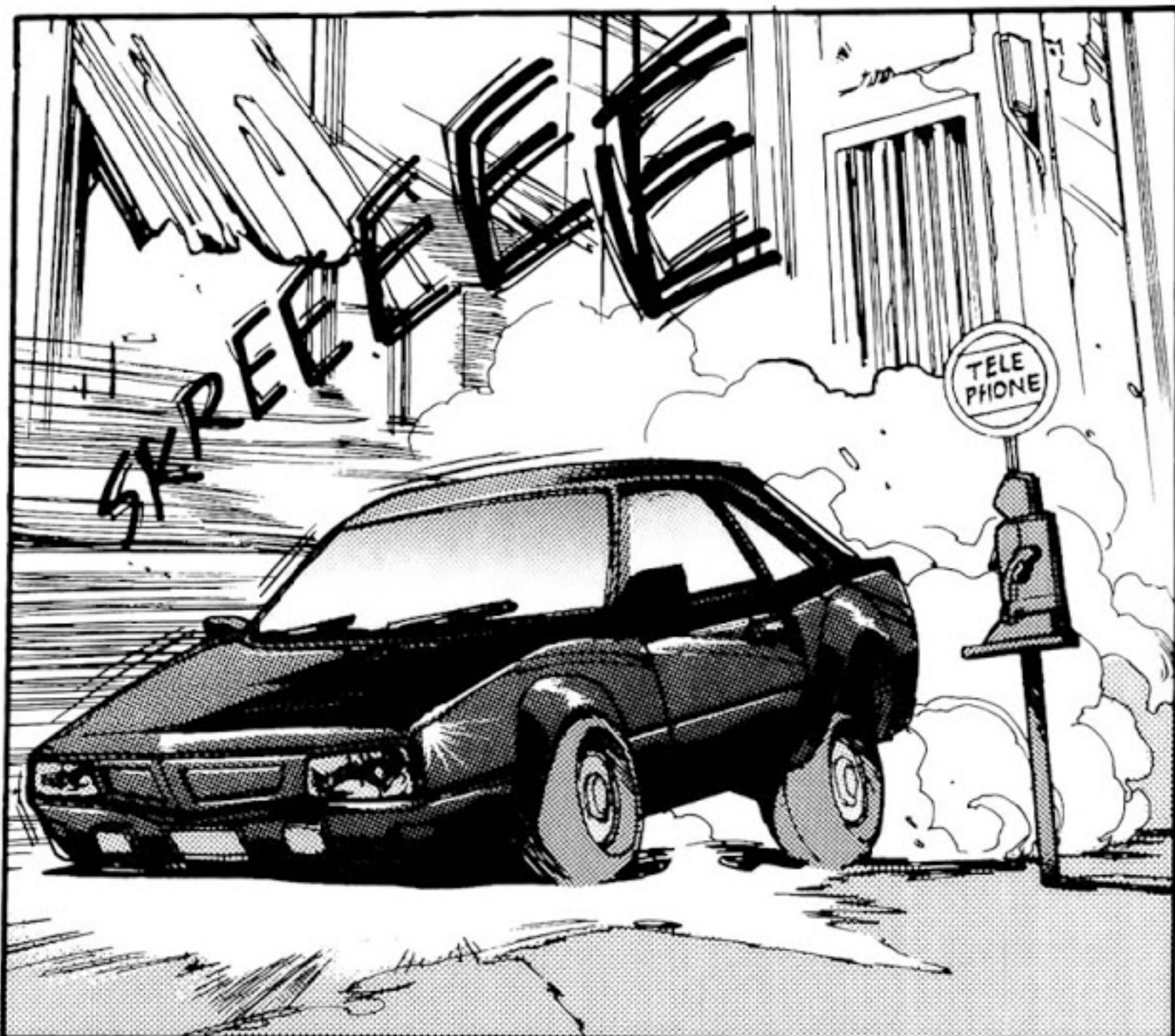
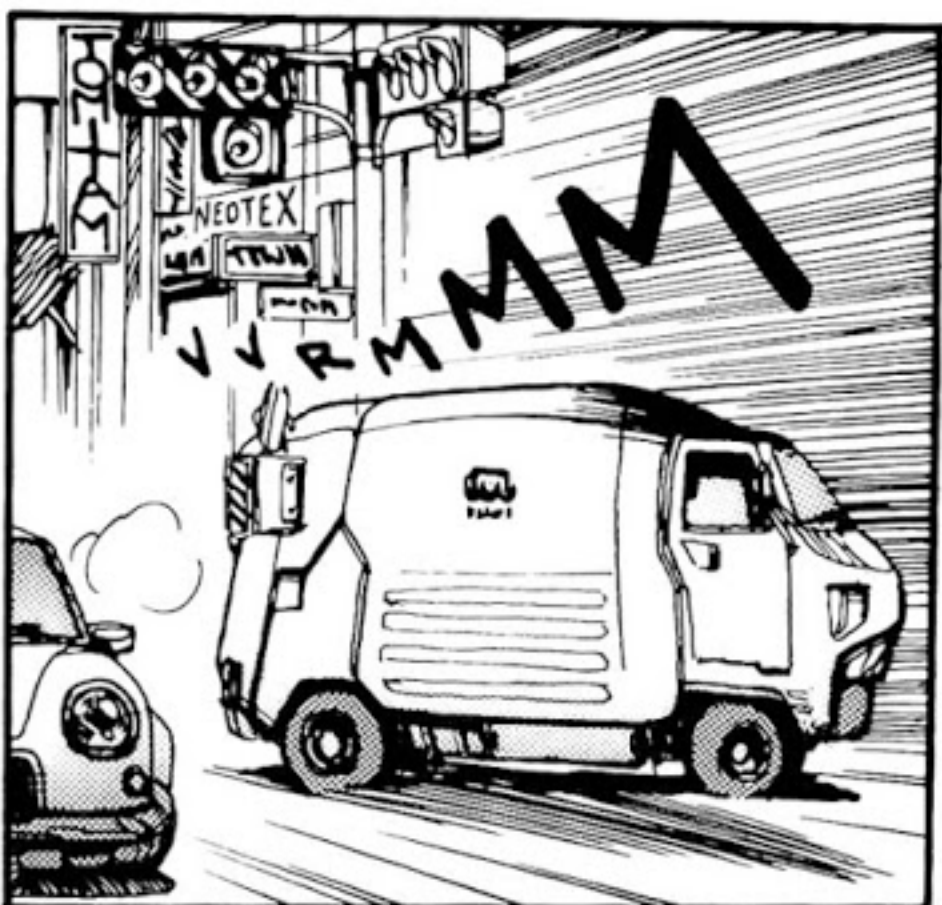


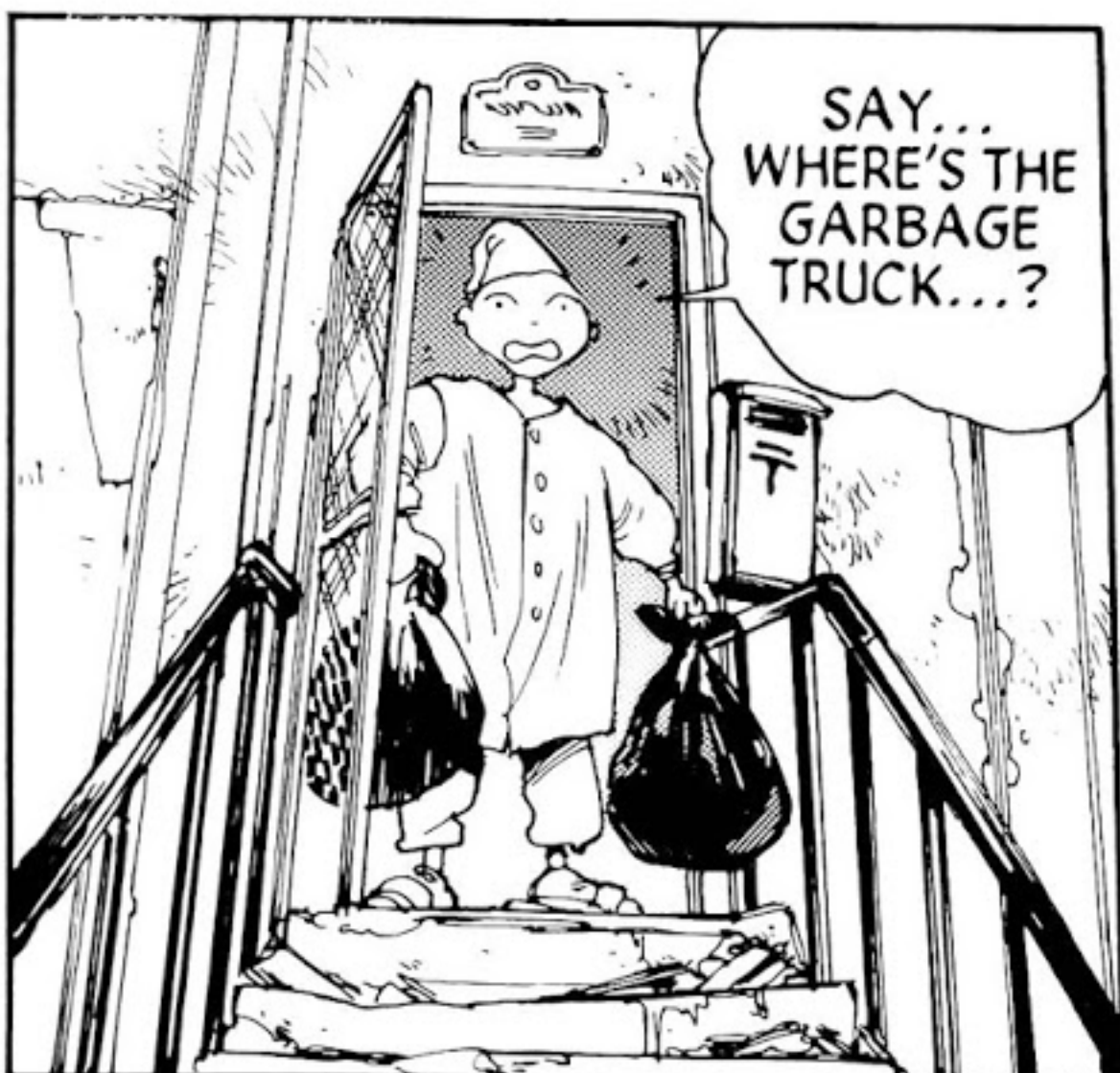
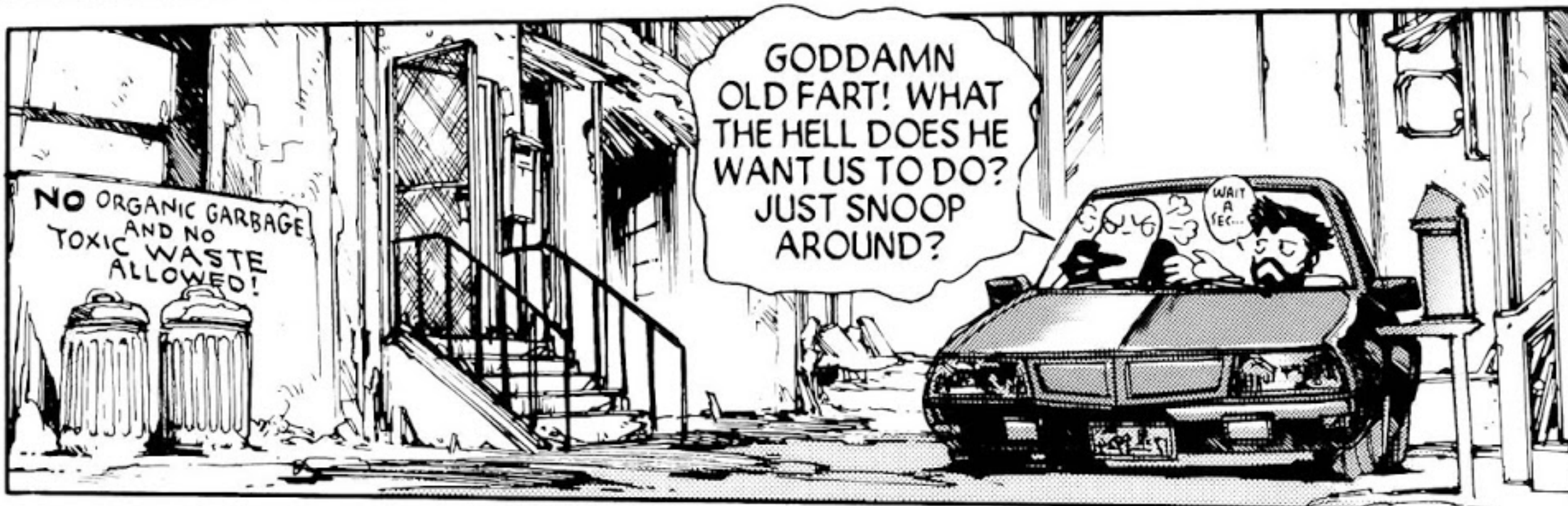
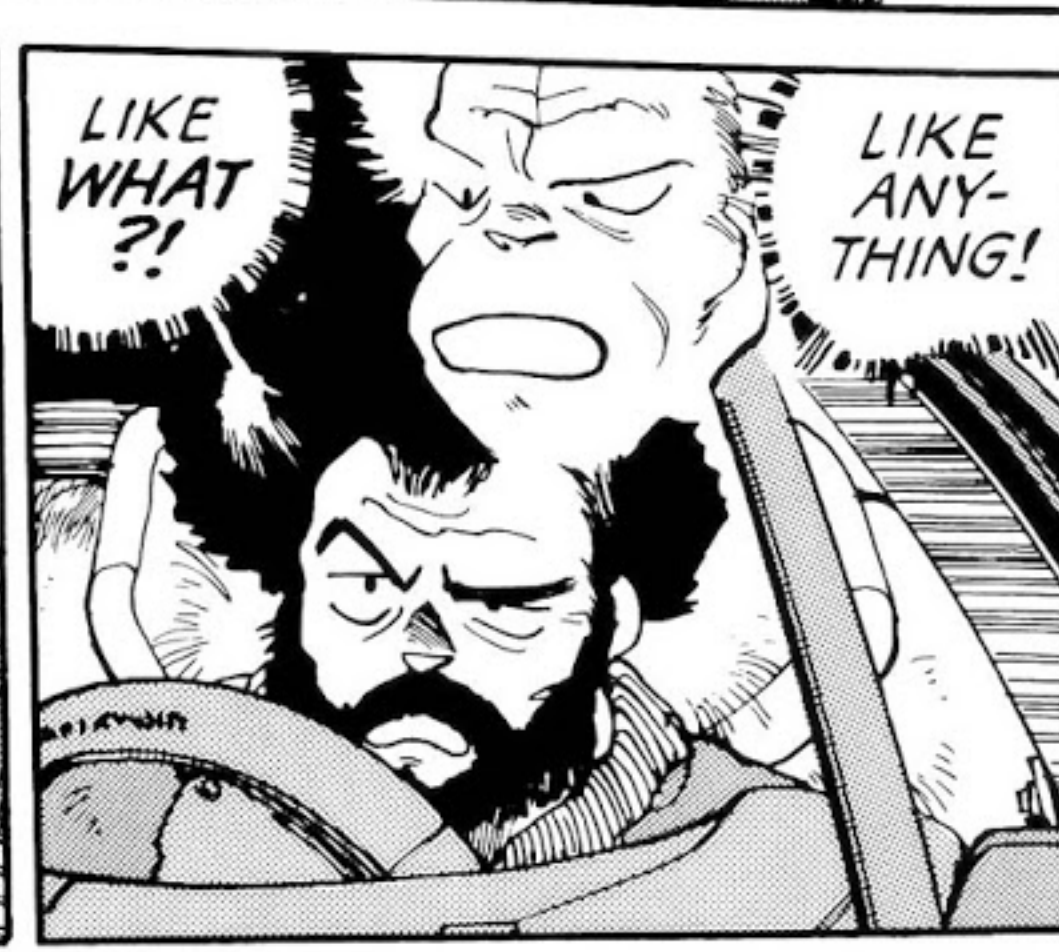
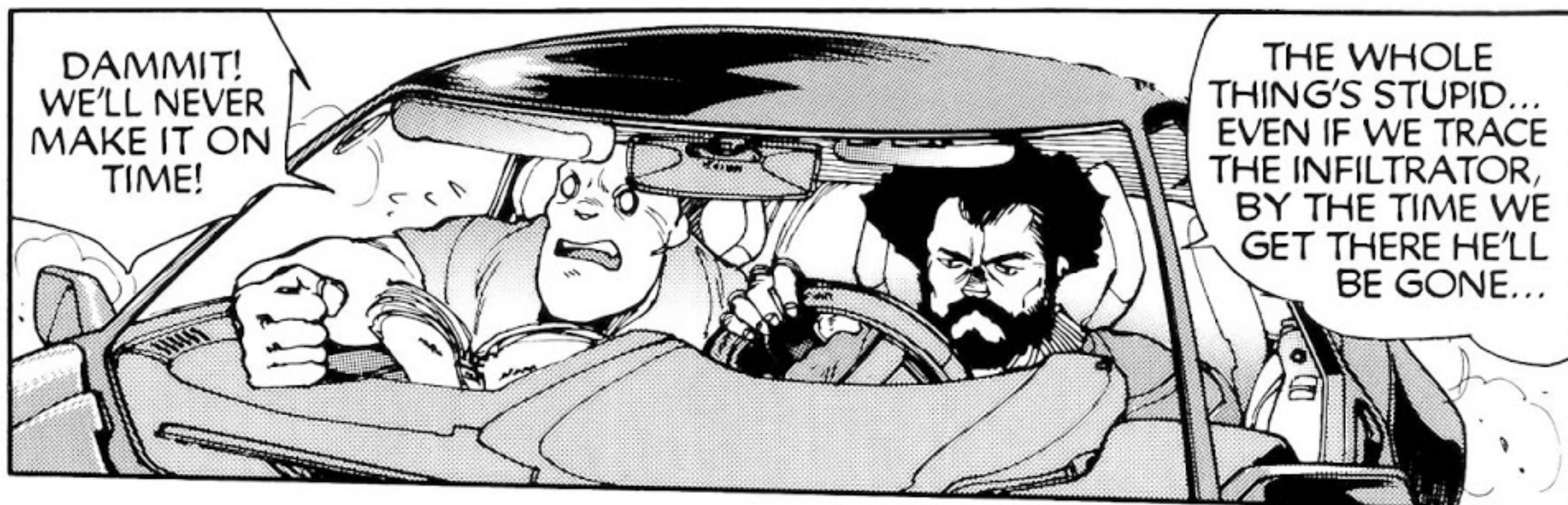


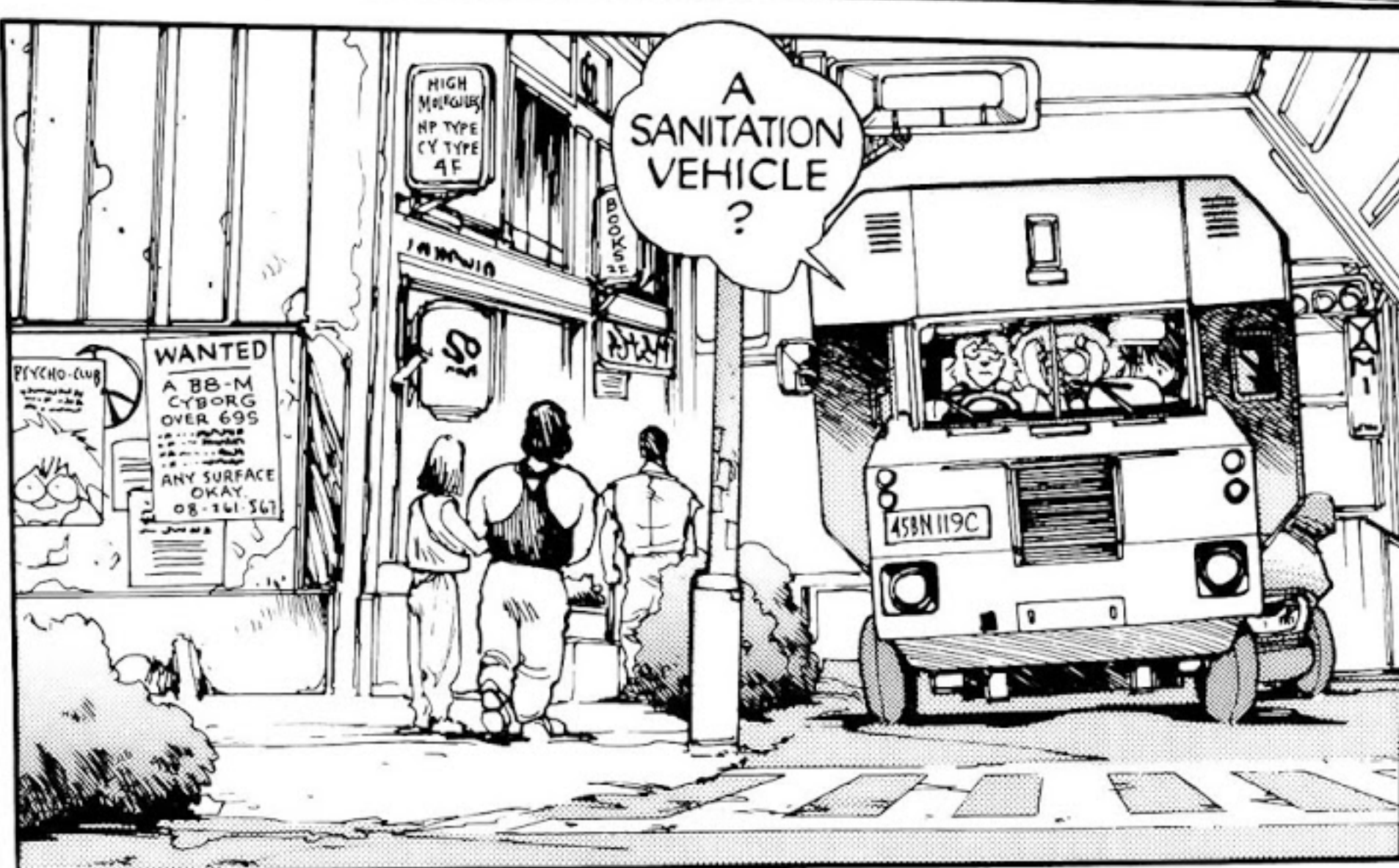
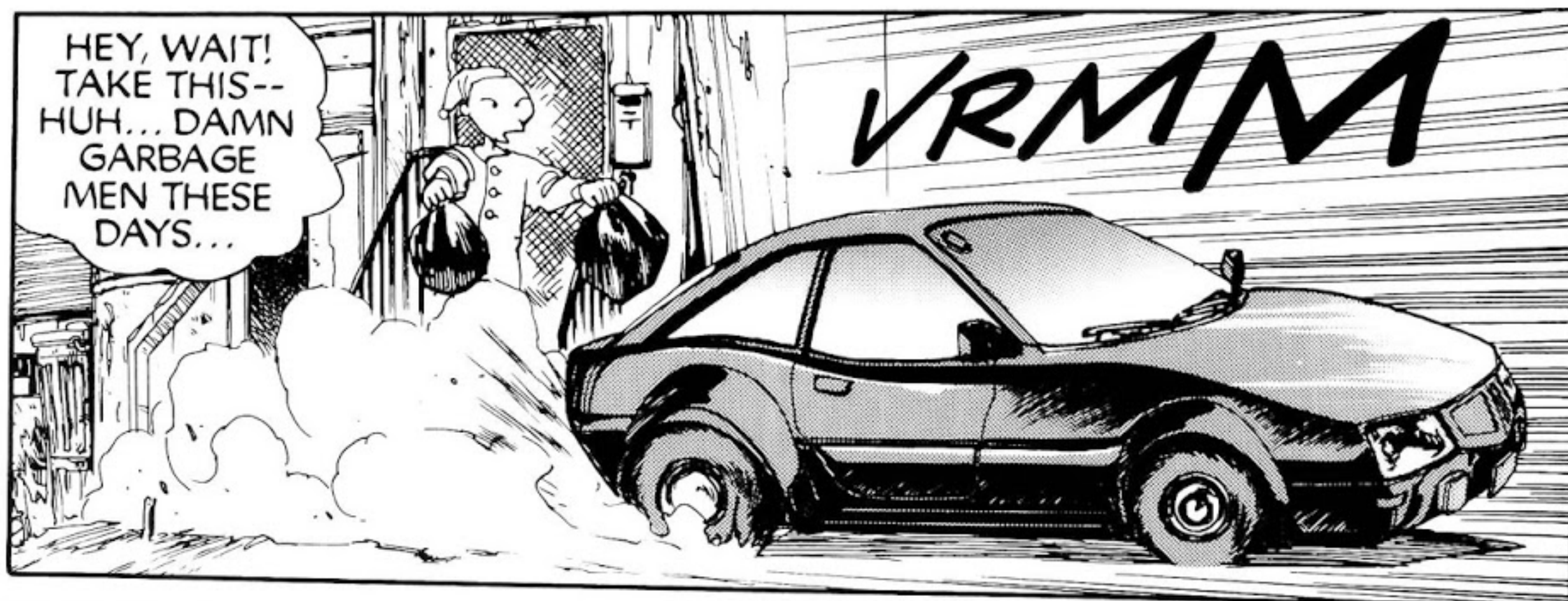
US
SANITATION
ENGINEERS
AREN'T THE
ONLY ONES
IN A HURRY,
I GUESS...



UH-
OH...
IF WE GET
STUCK AT
THE NEXT
LIGHT WE
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
MAKE THE
DUMP SITE
IN SEVEN
MINUTES...

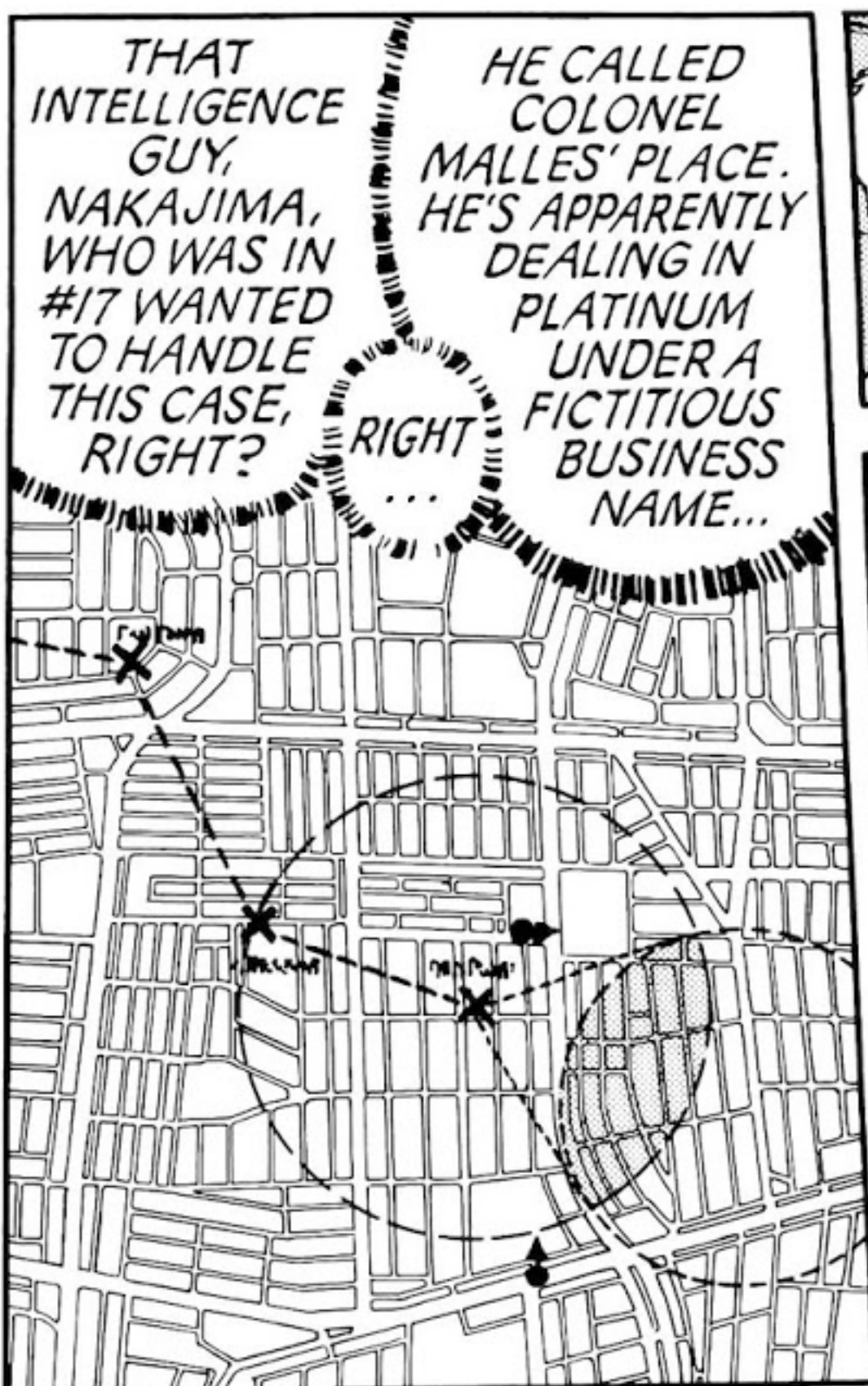








GOOD! NOW,
DON'T LAY A
FINGER ON THEM
EVEN IF YOU FIND
THEM. I WANT
YOU TO FOLLOW
UNDETECTED,
UNDERSTAND?!



THAT
INTELLIGENCE
GUY,
NAKAJIMA,
WHO WAS IN
#17 WANTED
TO HANDLE
THIS CASE,
RIGHT?

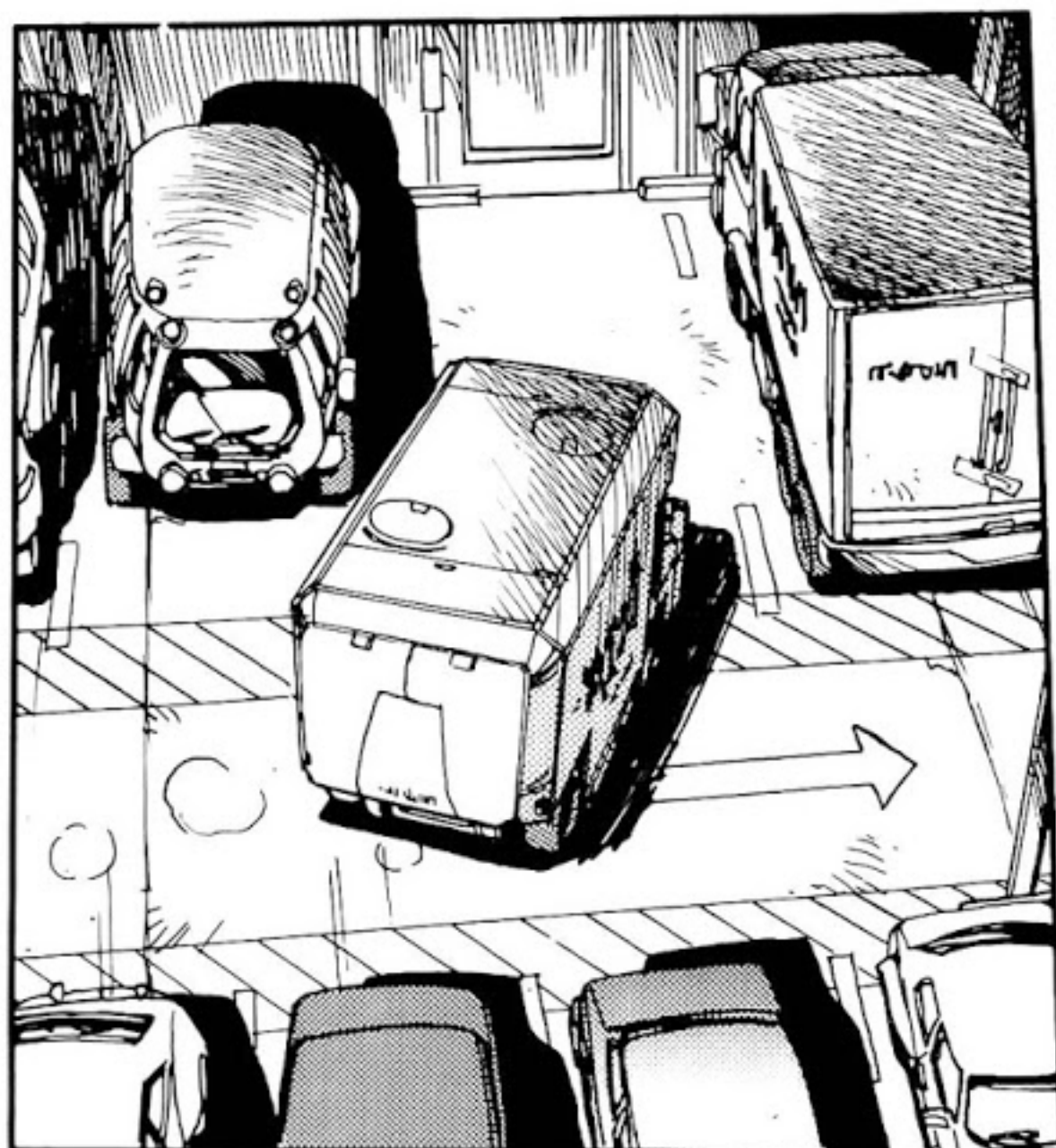
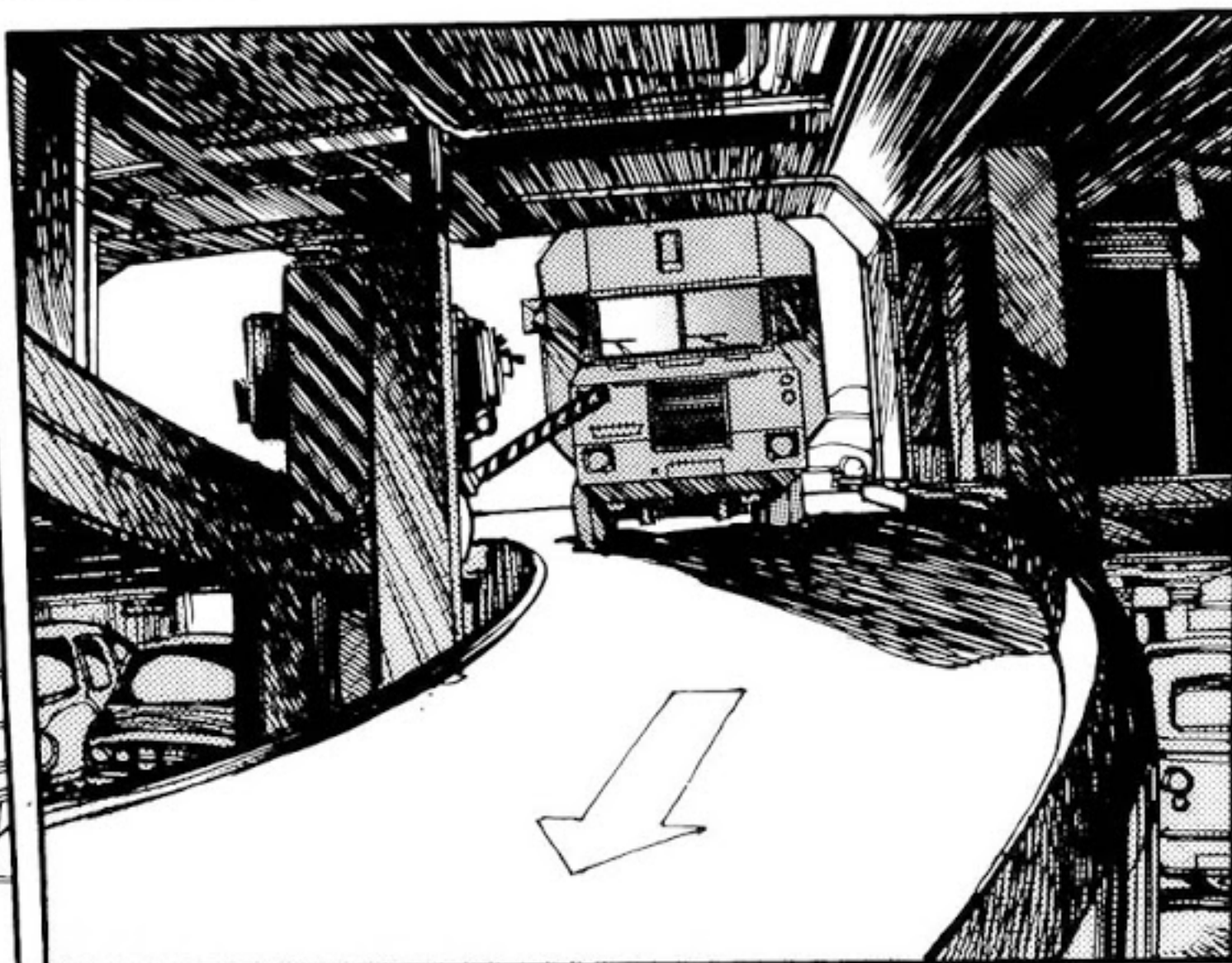
RIGHT
...

HE CALLED
COLONEL
MALLES' PLACE.
HE'S APPARENTLY
DEALING IN
PLATINUM
UNDER A
FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS
NAME...



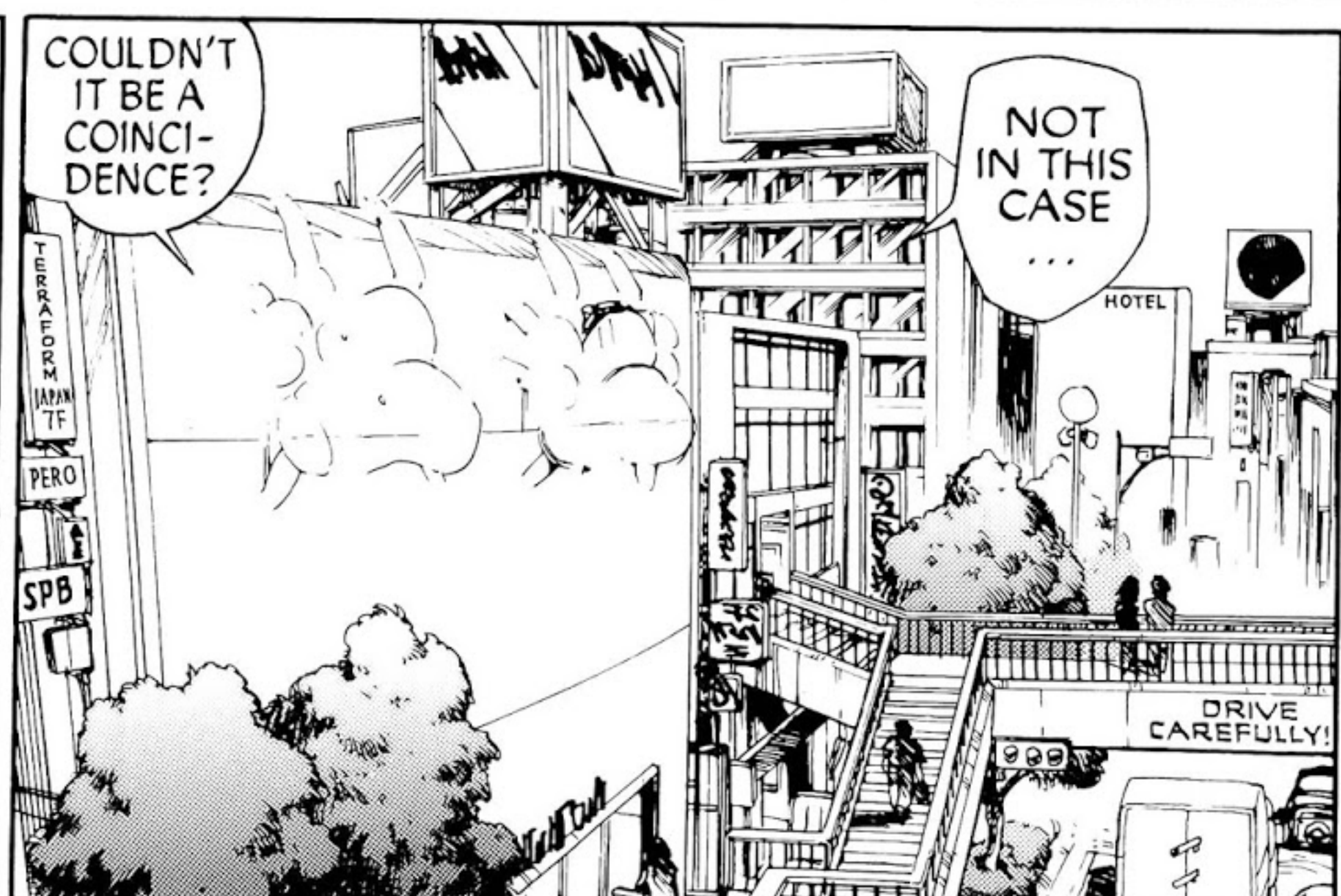
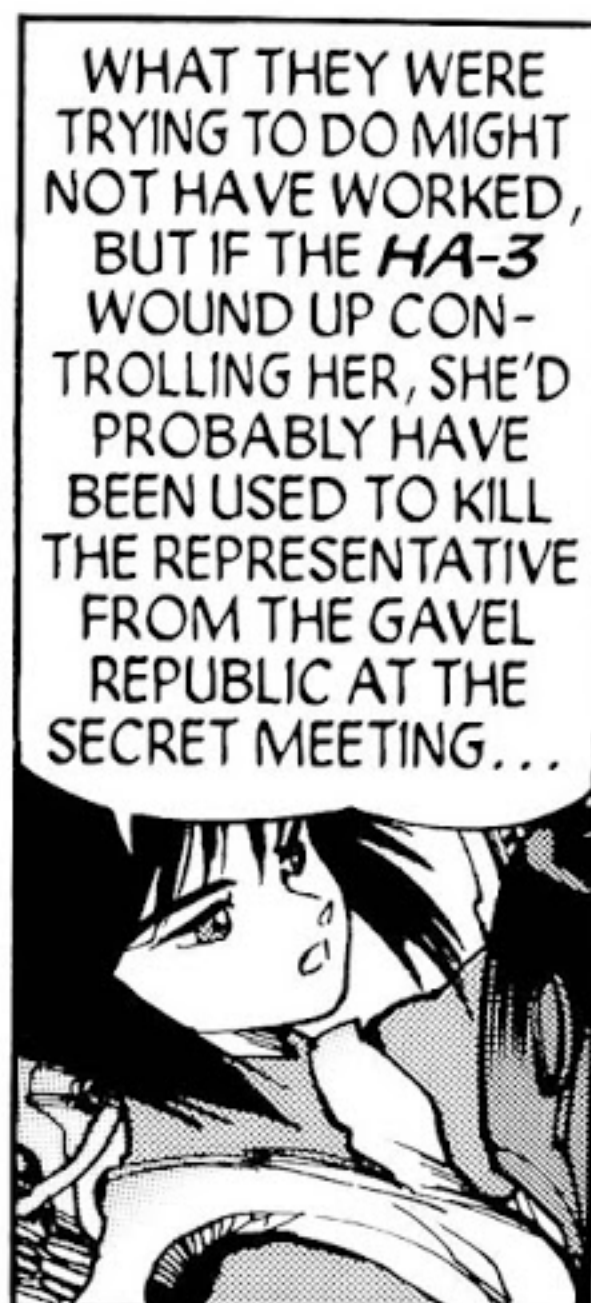
HOW'S
THE INTER-
PRETER
DOING?

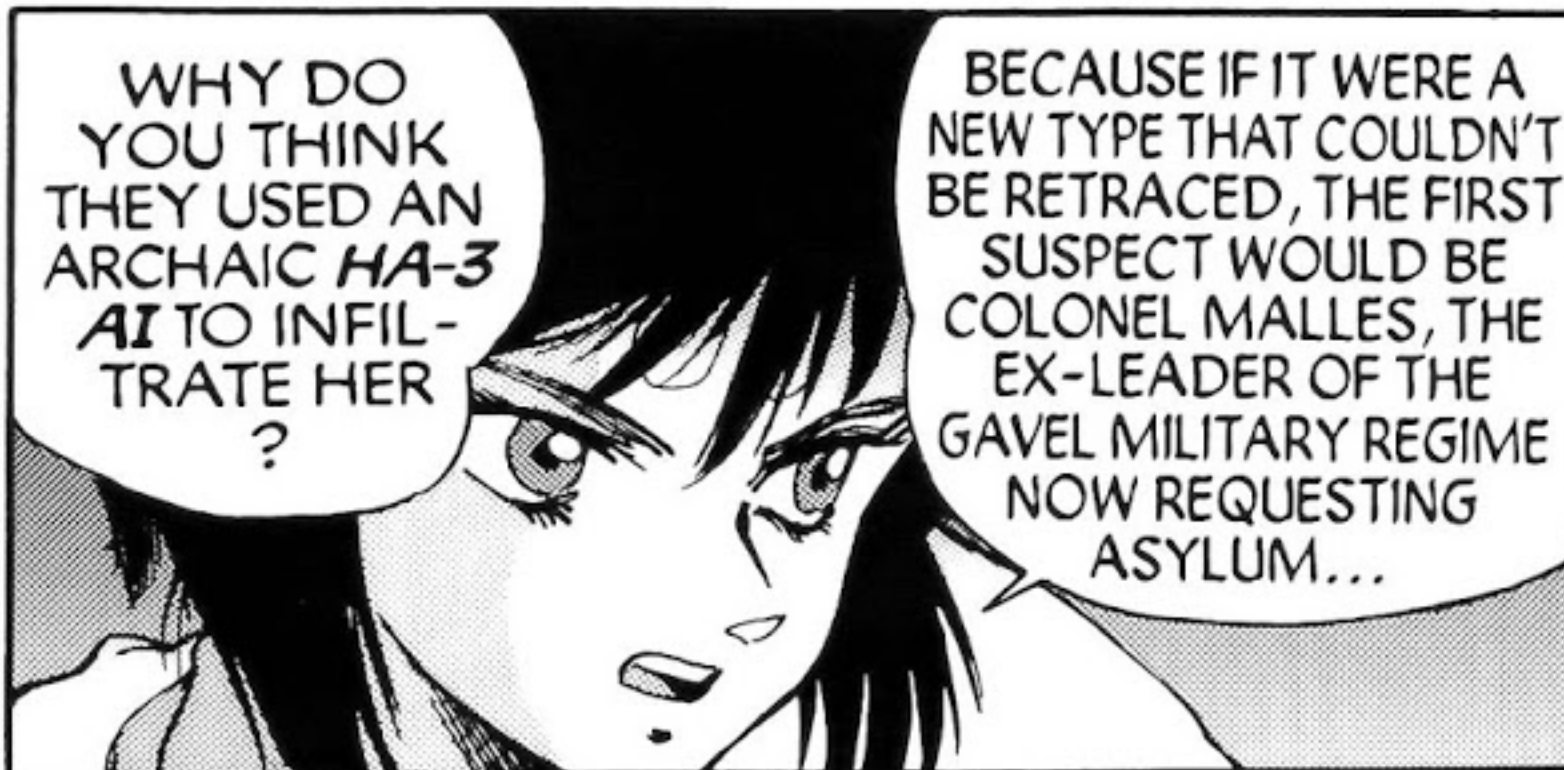
SHE'S
MAINTAIN-
ING...
DON'T LET
ANYONE
KNOW WHAT
WE'RE DOING.



SPM

KANG





WHY DO YOU THINK THEY USED AN ARCHAIC **HA-3 AI** TO INFILTRATE HER?

BECAUSE IF IT WERE A NEW TYPE THAT COULDN'T BE RETRACED, THE FIRST SUSPECT WOULD BE COLONEL MALLES, THE EX-LEADER OF THE GAVEL MILITARY REGIME NOW REQUESTING ASYLUM...



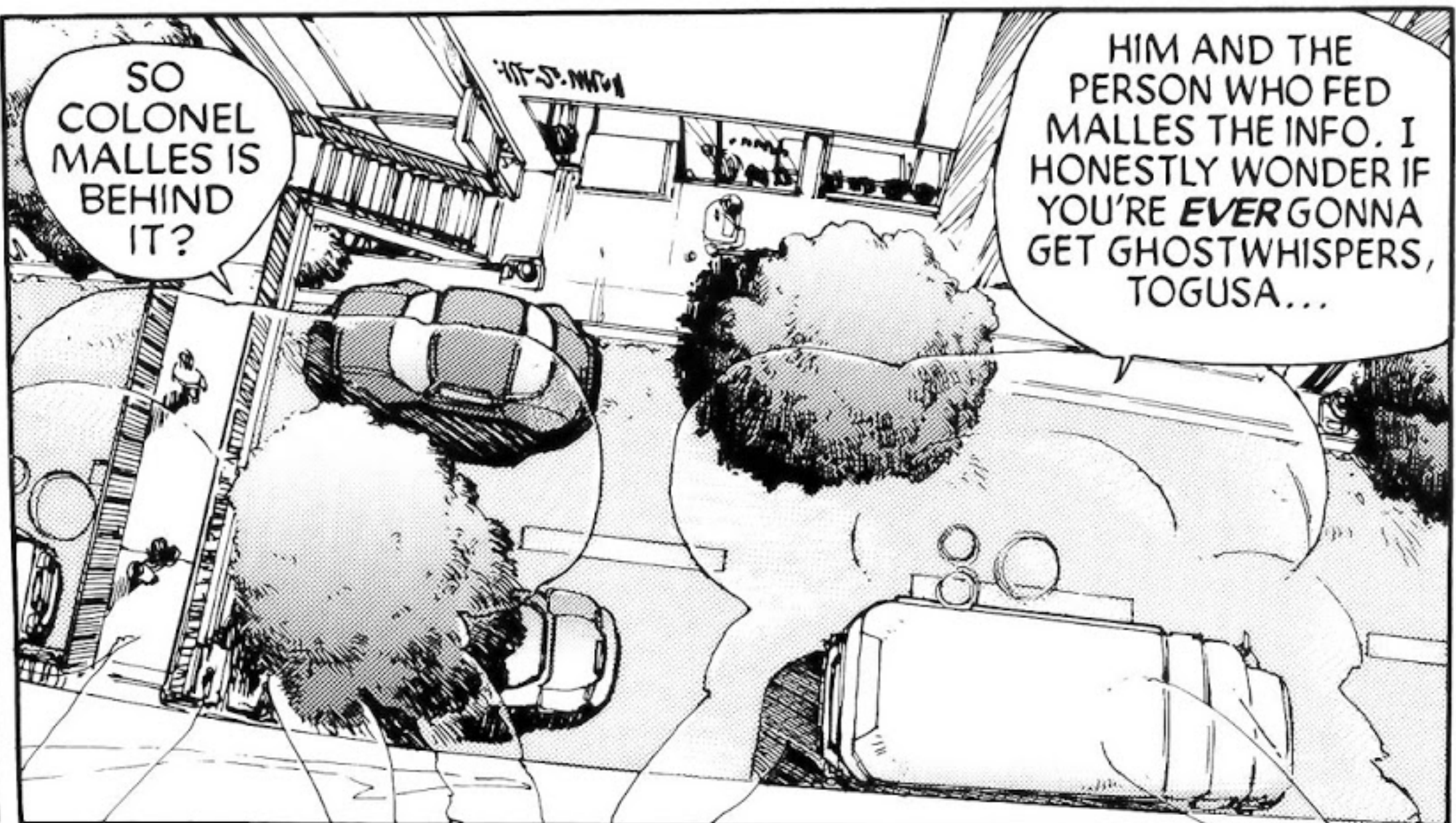
SO THEY USED AN **HA-3** TO PUT THE BLAME ON SOMEONE ELSE?

BUT MAKING A GARBAGE MAN THE FALL GUY SEEMS HARD TO BELIEVE...

DON'T YOU THINK THE GARBAGE MAN WAS ACTING ALONE, USING AN **HA-3** 'CAUSE THAT'S ALL HE HAD?



HOW CAN YOU BE SO GOD-DAMN **DENSE**, TOGUSA?



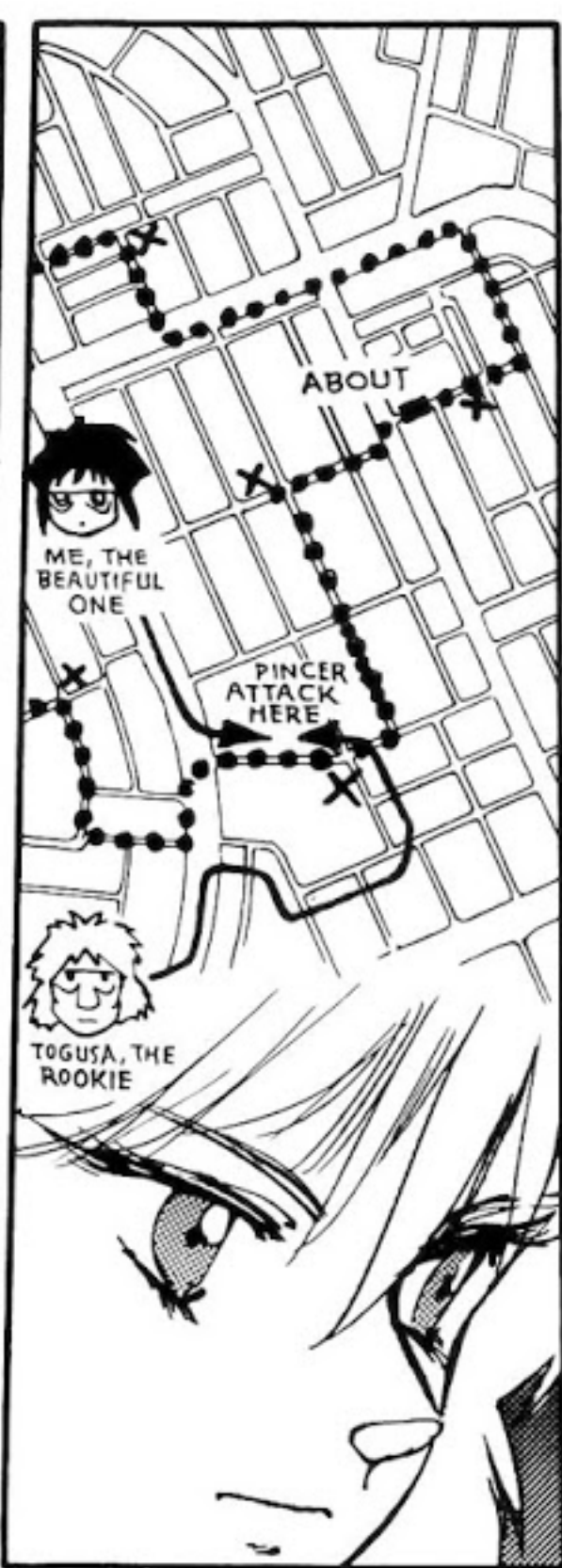
SO COLONEL MALLES IS BEHIND IT?

HIM AND THE PERSON WHO FED MALLES THE INFO. I HONESTLY WONDER IF YOU'RE **EVER** GONNA GET GHOSTWHISPERS, TOGUSA...



MAJOR! WE GOT HOLD OF A MAP OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK'S NORMAL ROUTE... I'LL SEND IT USING STRAUSS ENCRYPTION **OP257...**

OKAY!

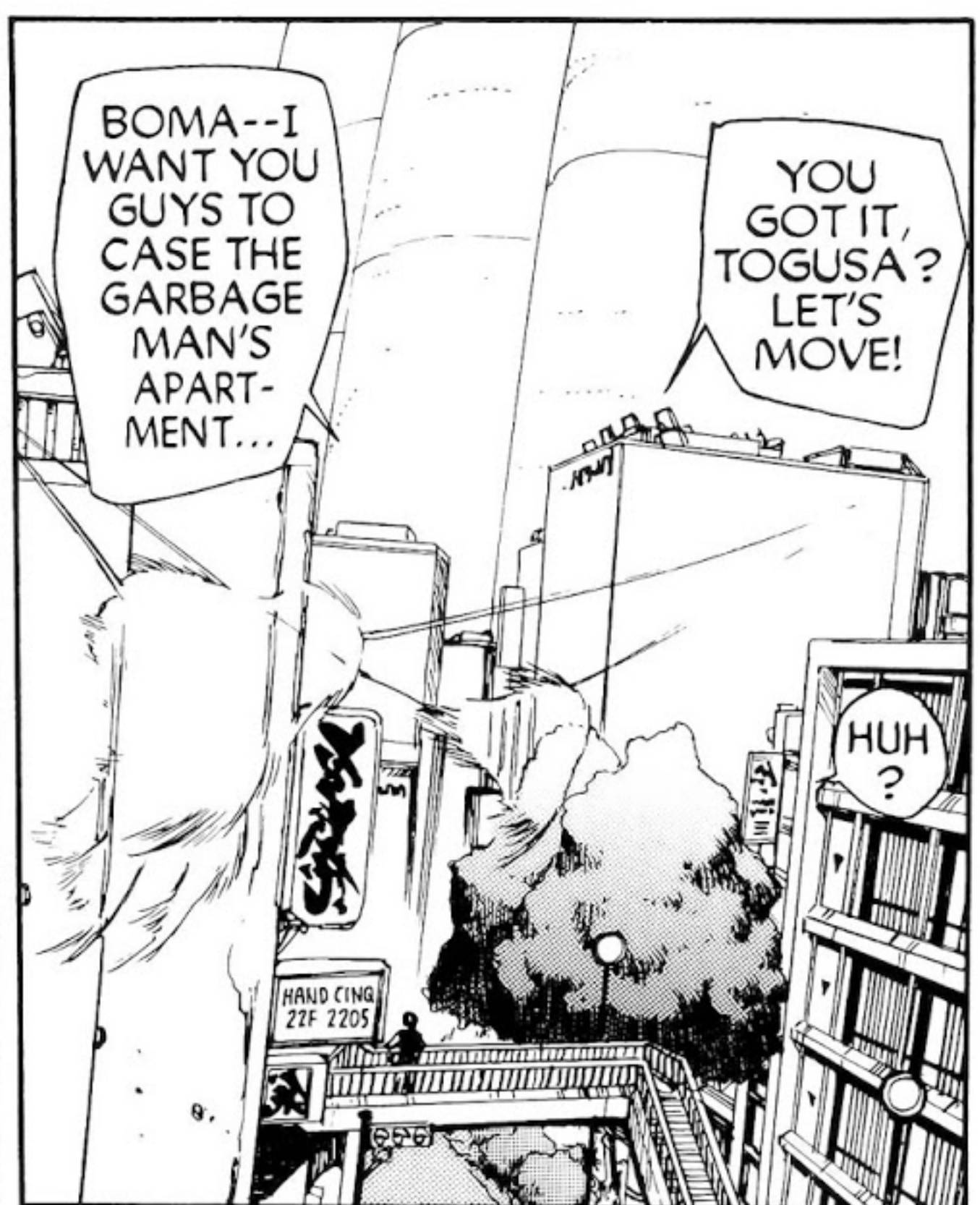


ABOUT

ME, THE BEAUTIFUL ONE

TOGUSA, THE ROOKIE

Pincer Attack Here

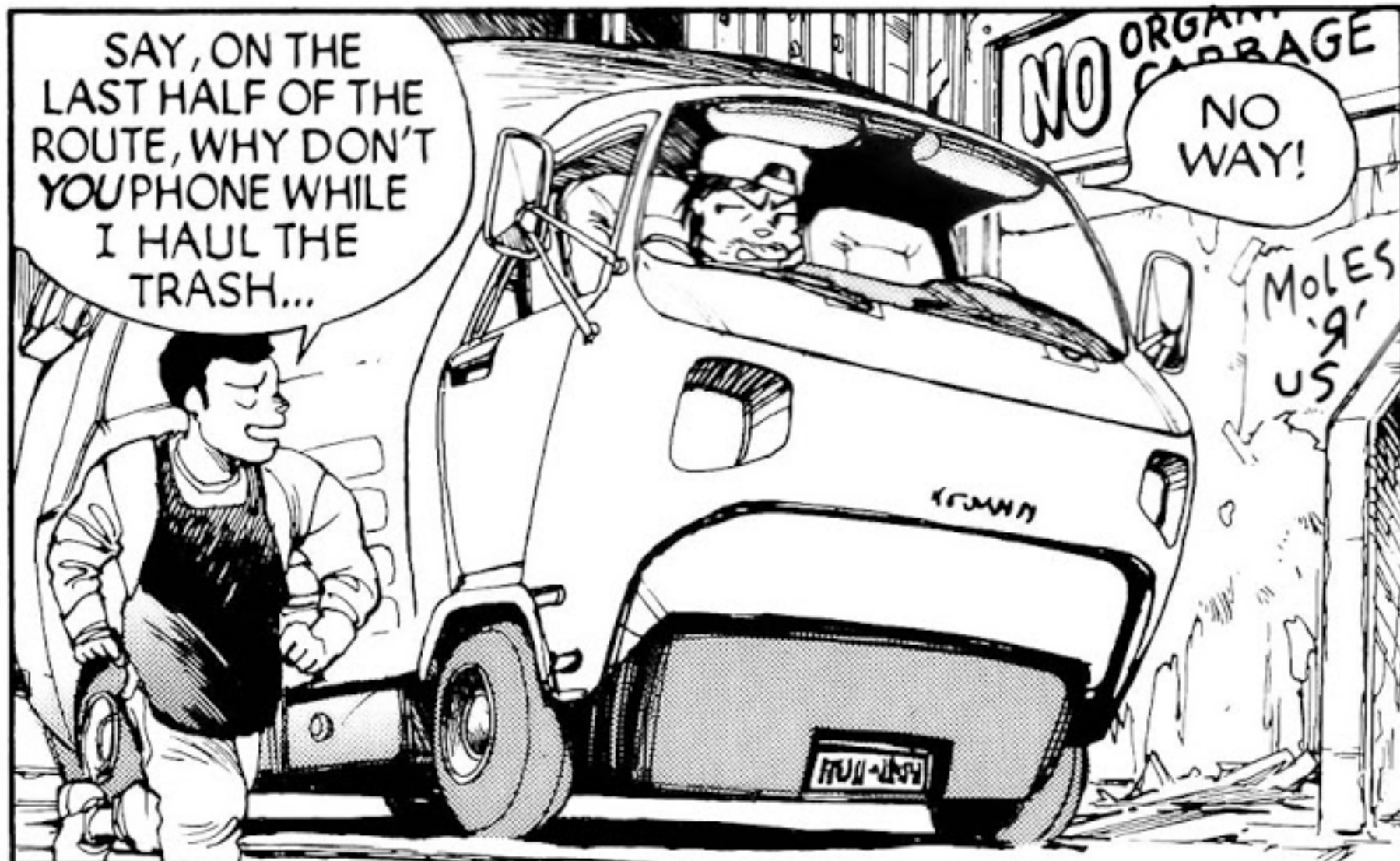


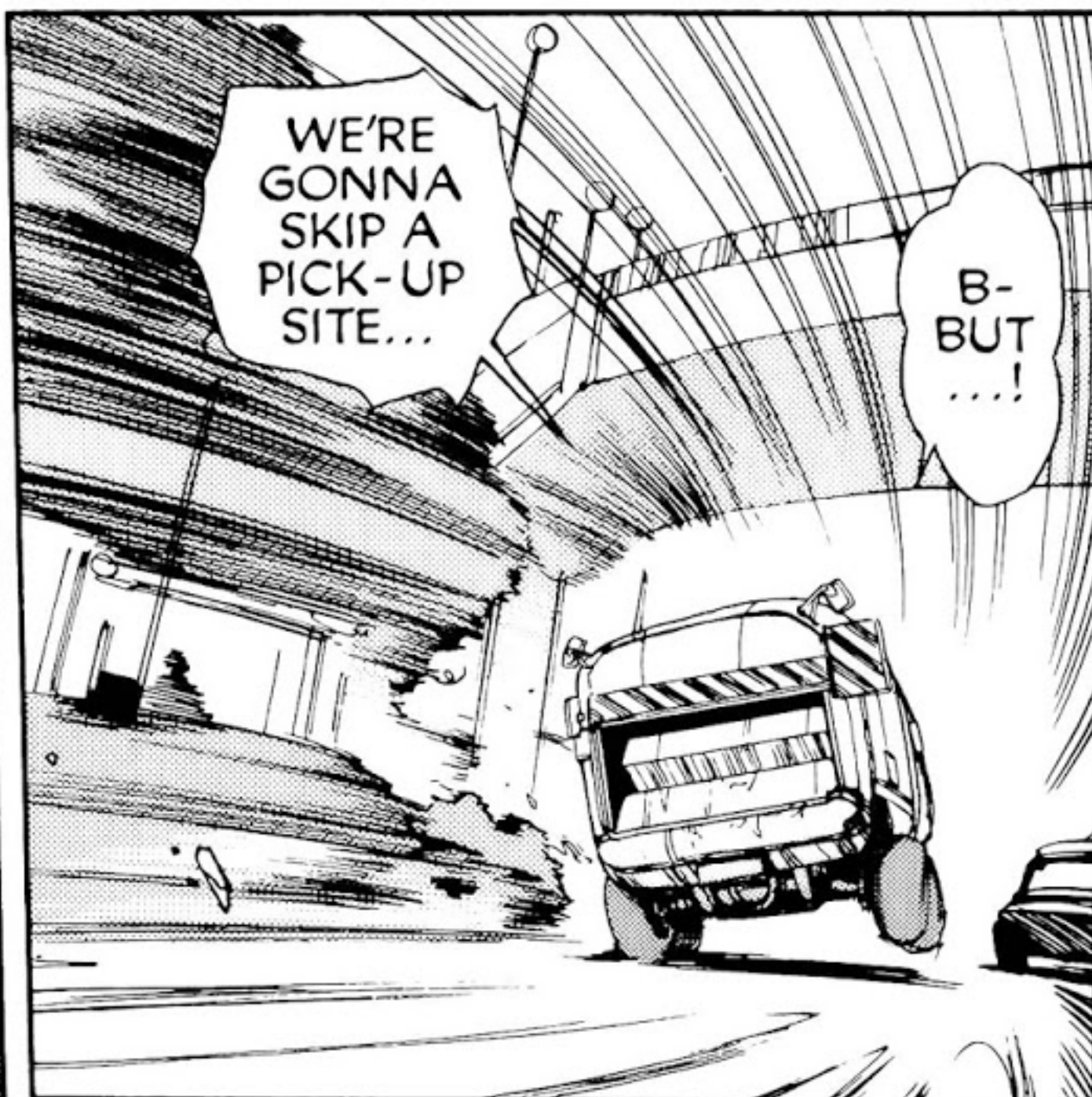
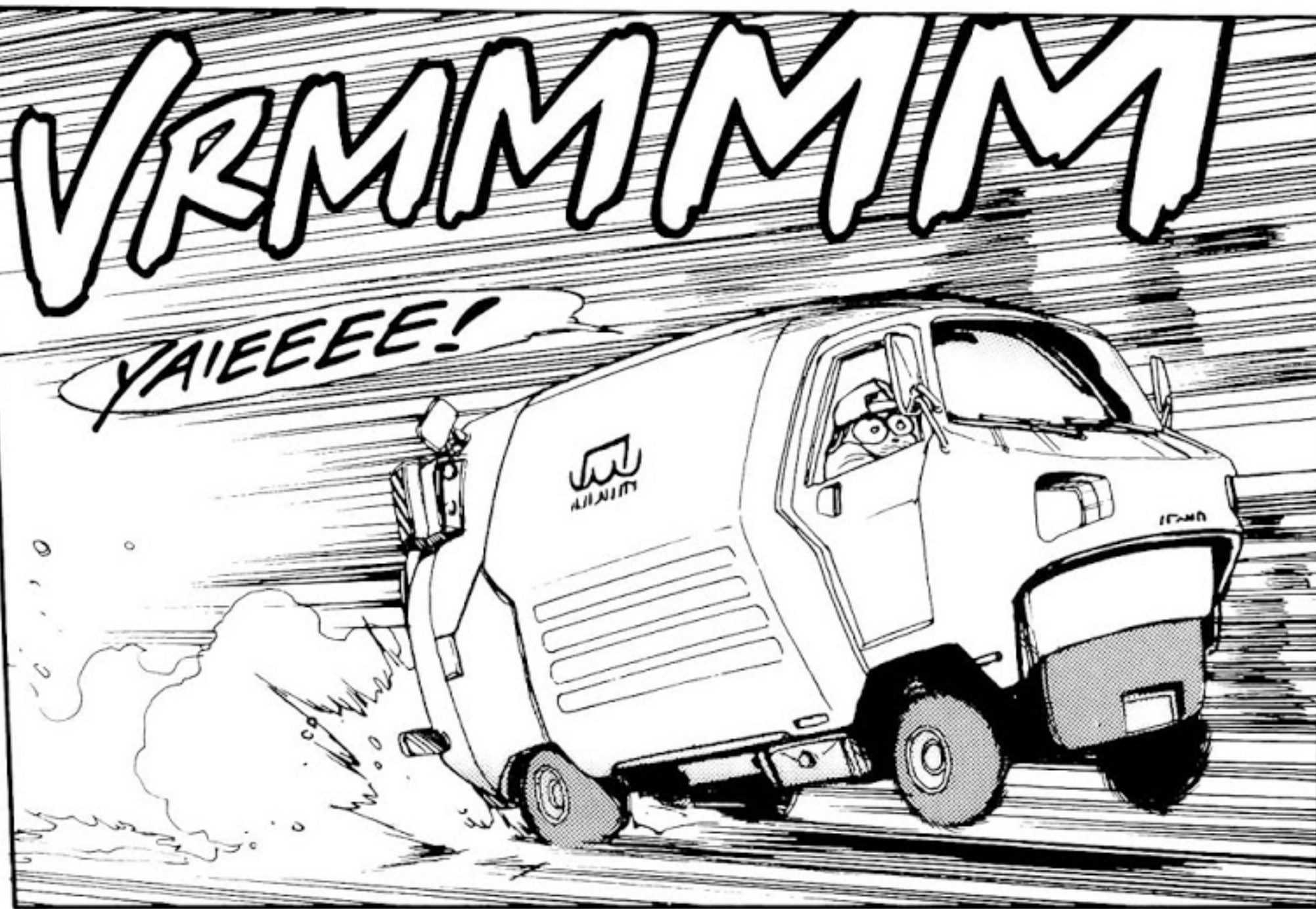
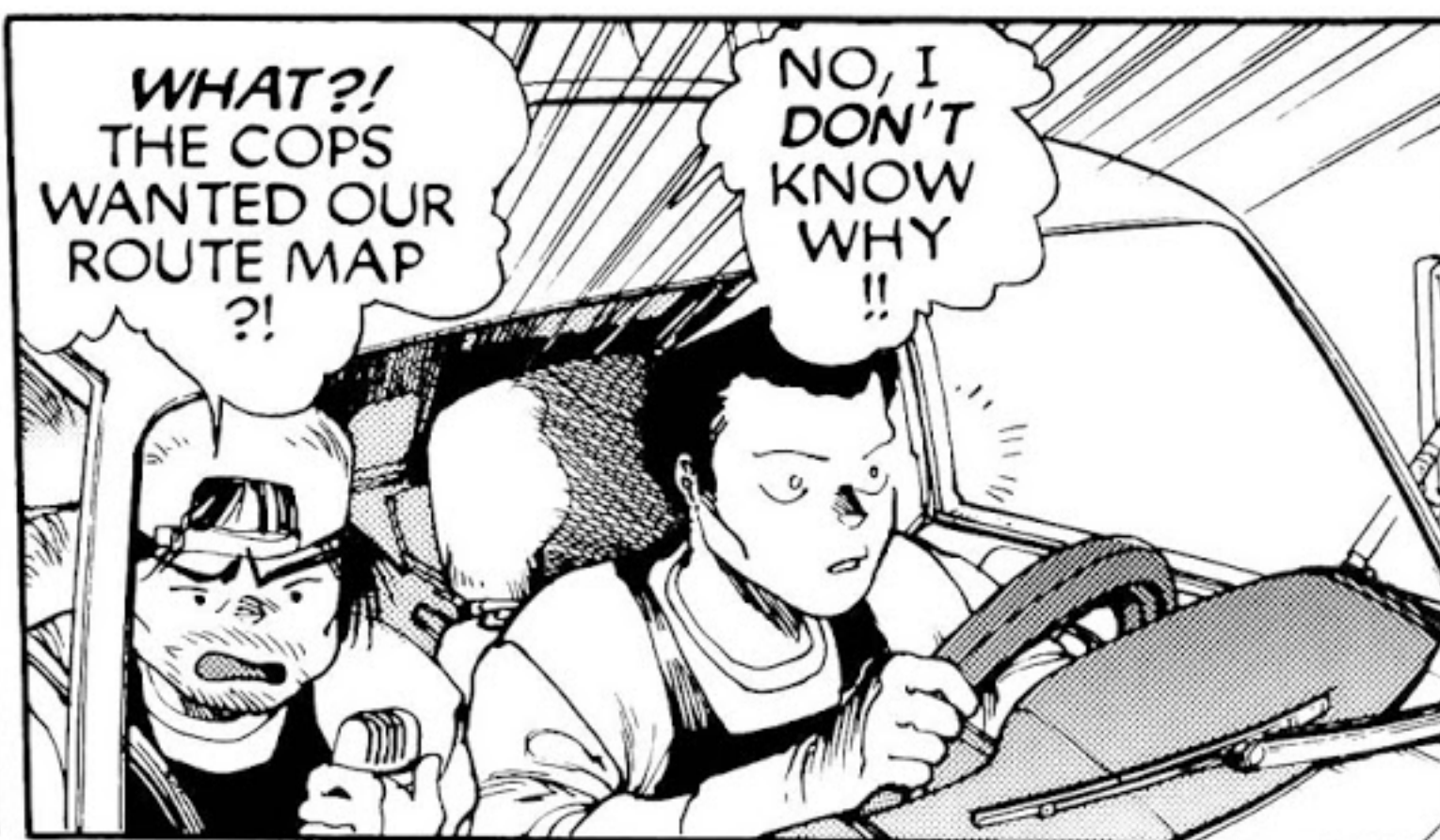
BOMA--I WANT YOU GUYS TO CASE THE GARBAGE MAN'S APARTMENT...

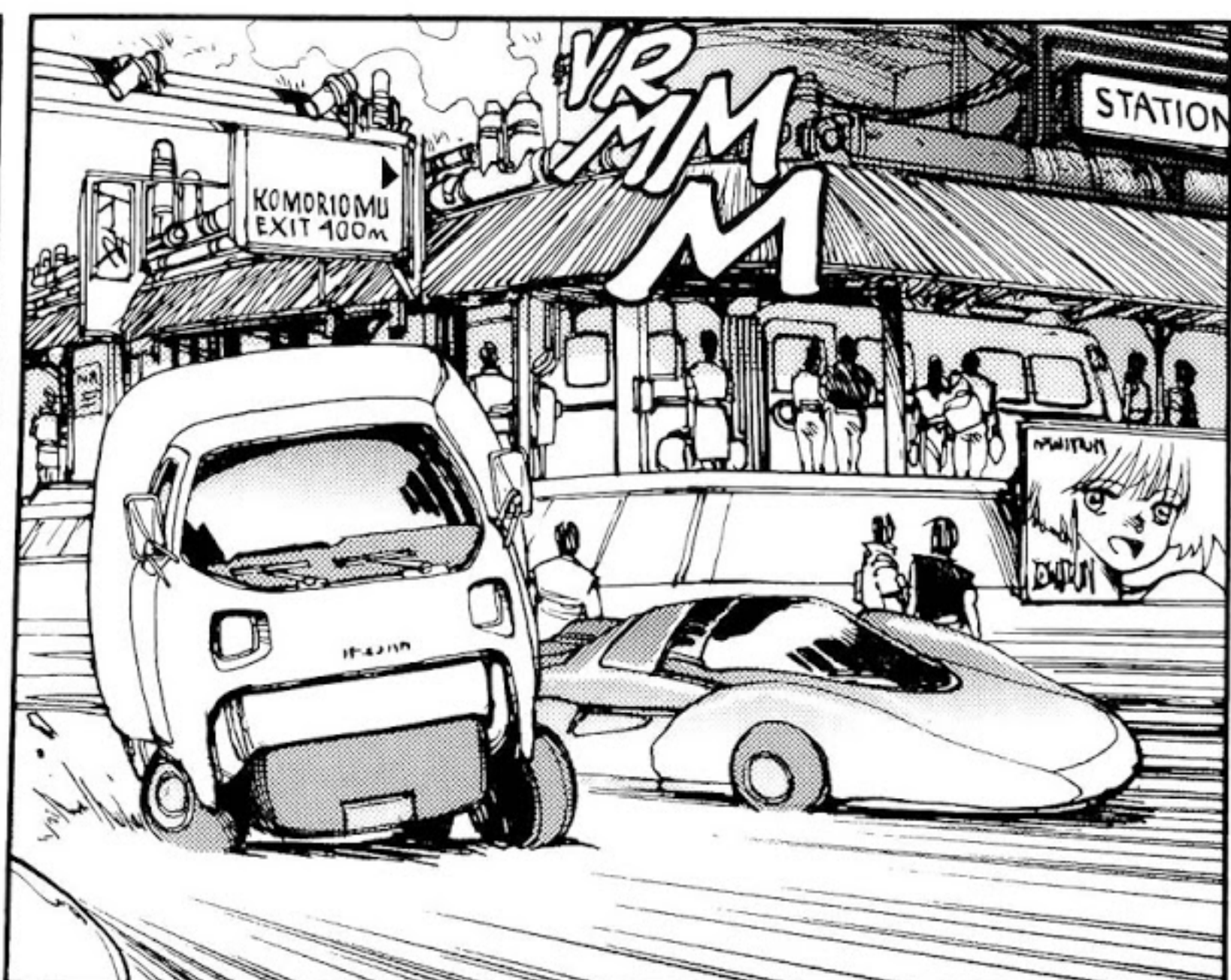
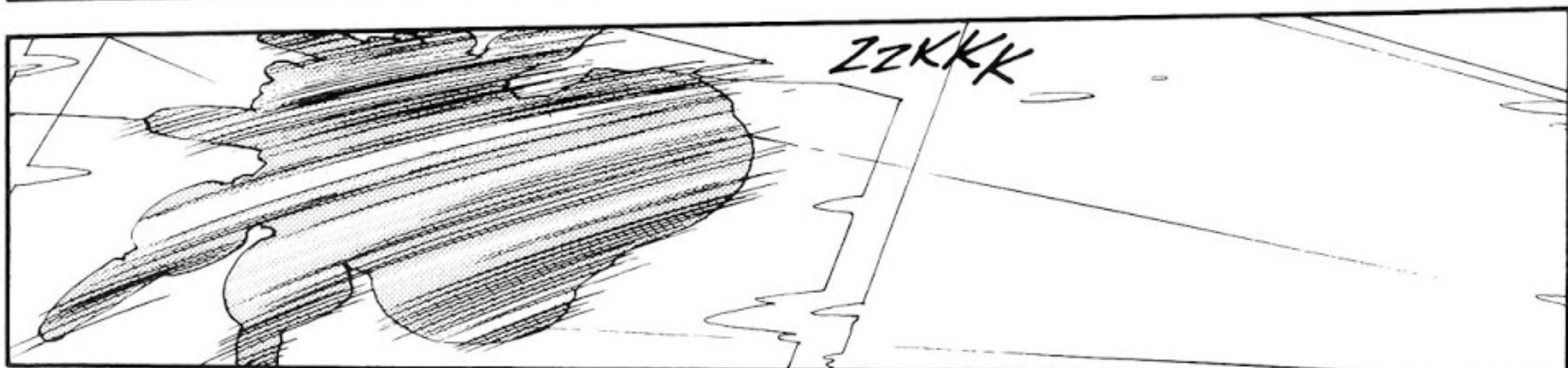
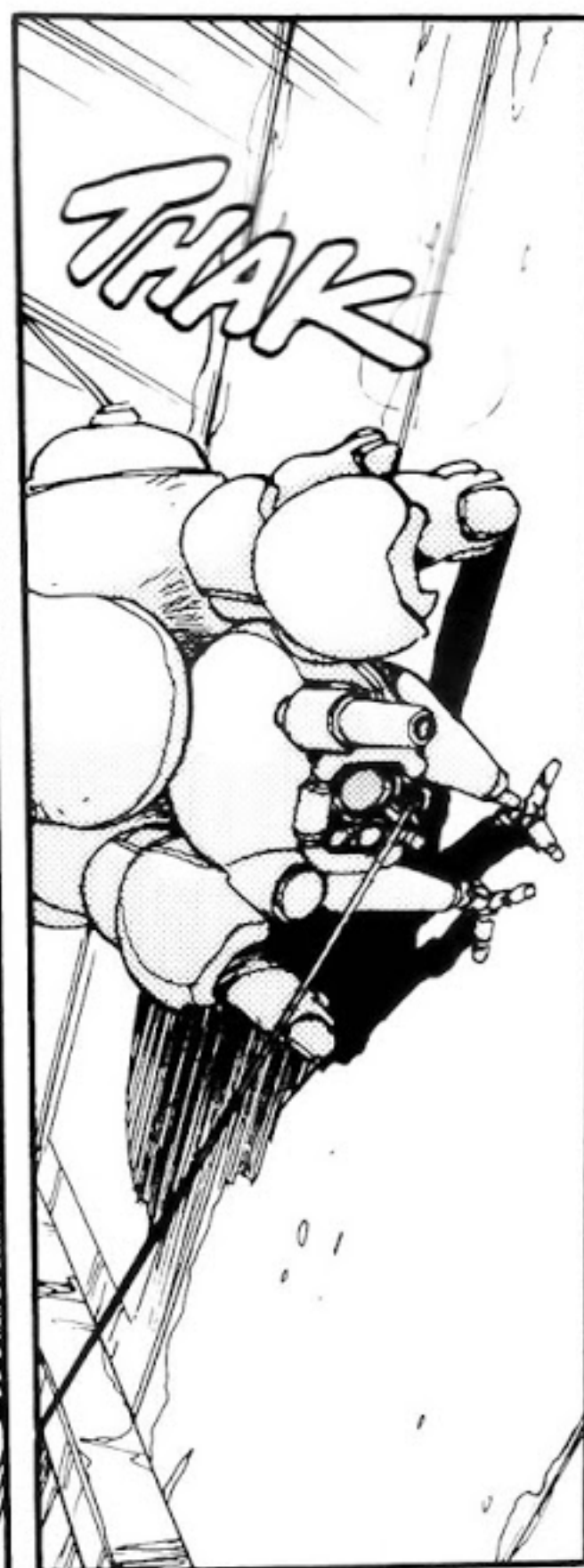
YOU GOT IT, TOGUSA? LET'S MOVE!

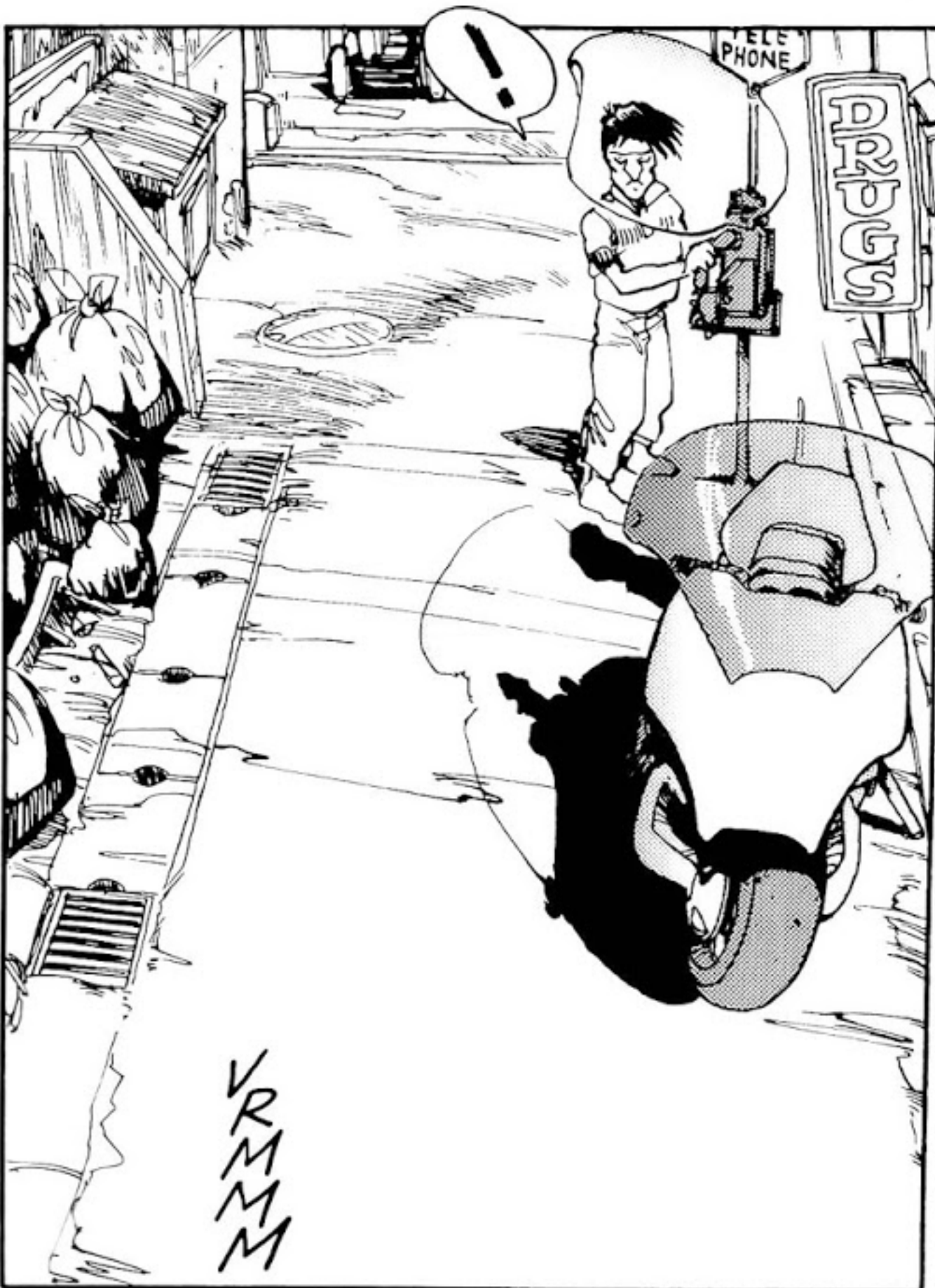
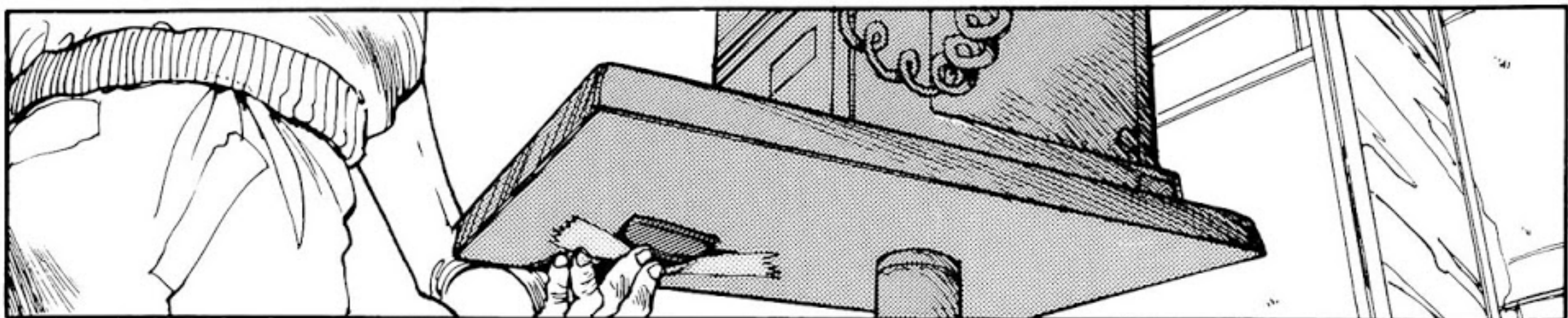
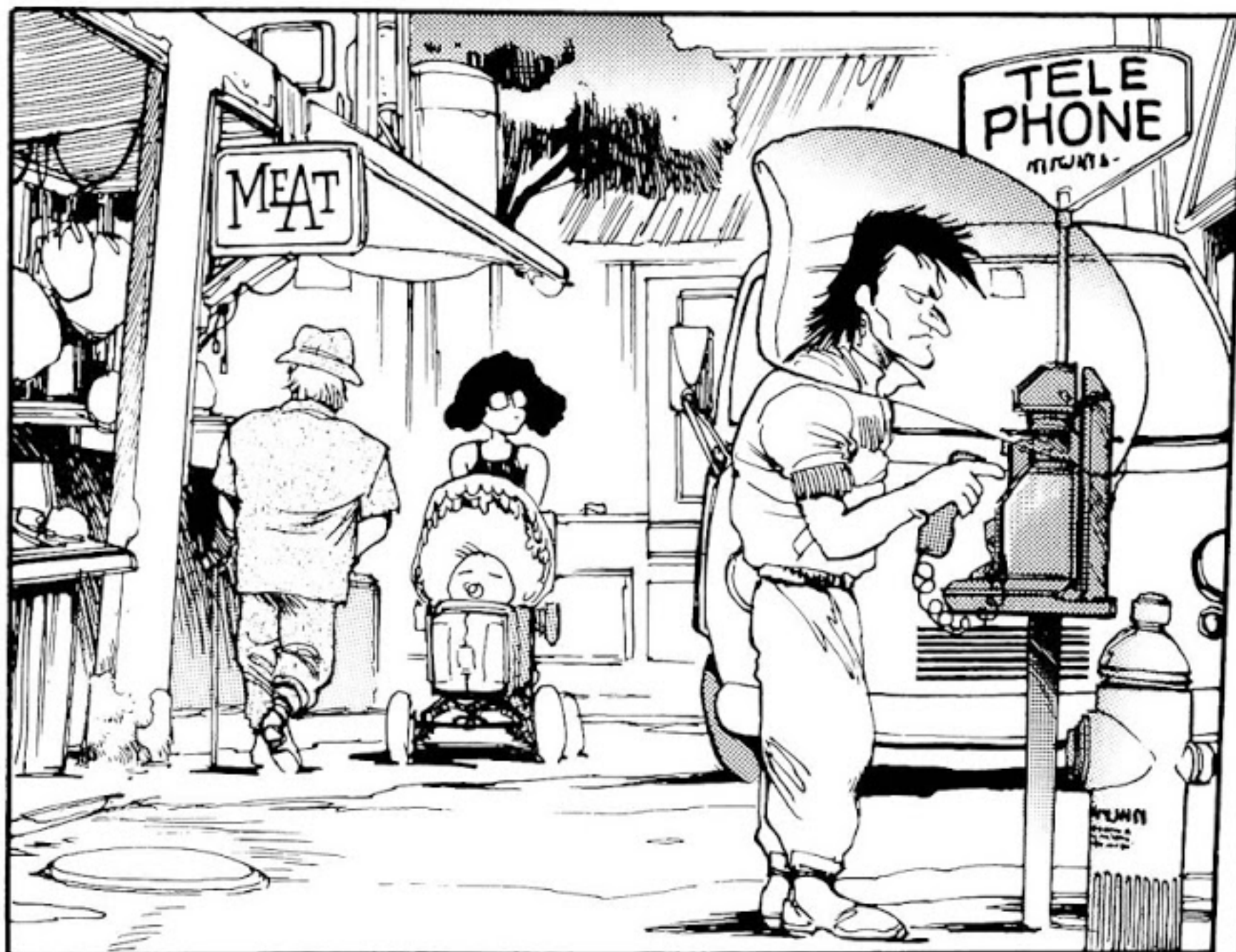
HUH?

HAND CING 22F 2205

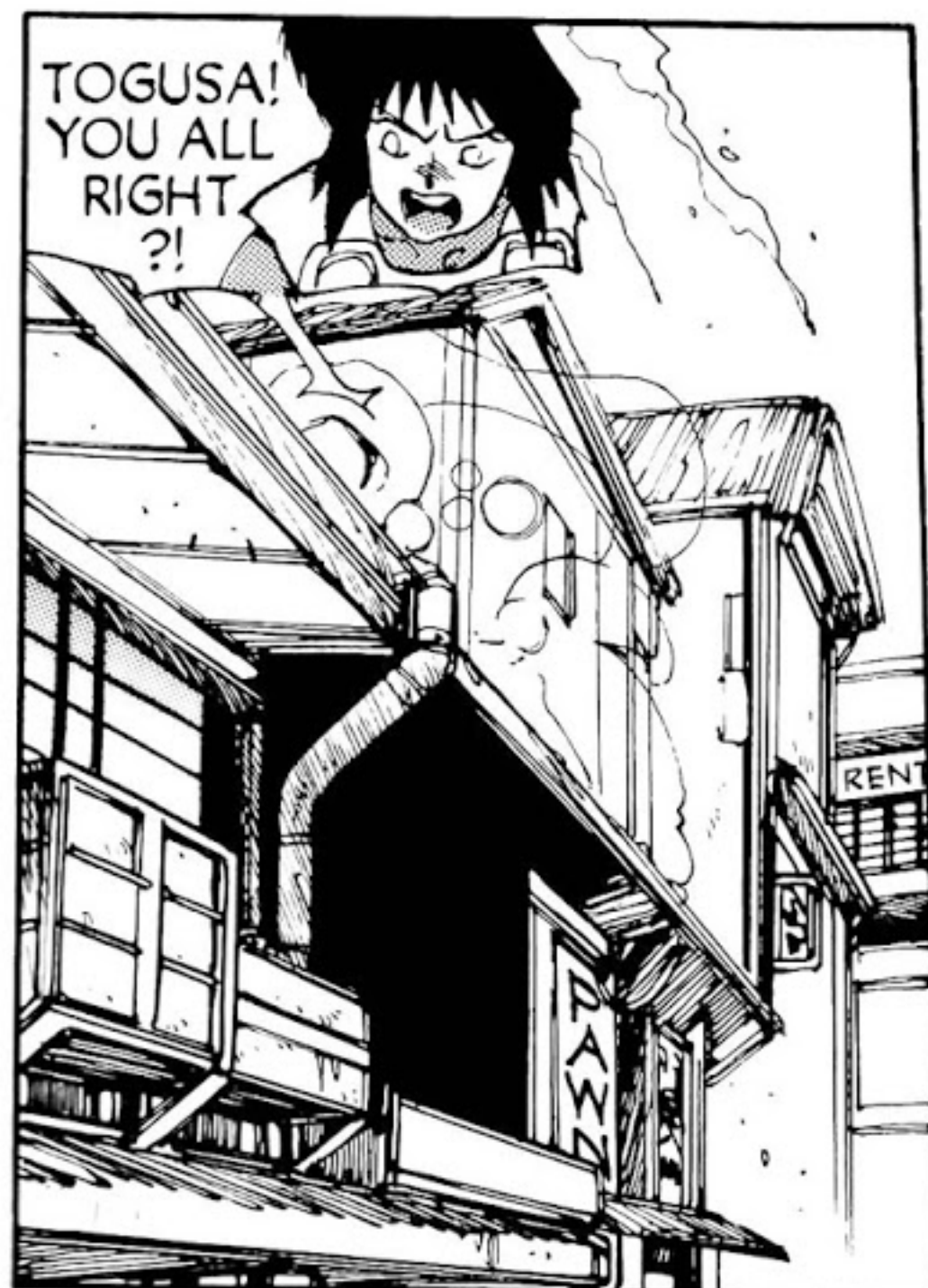
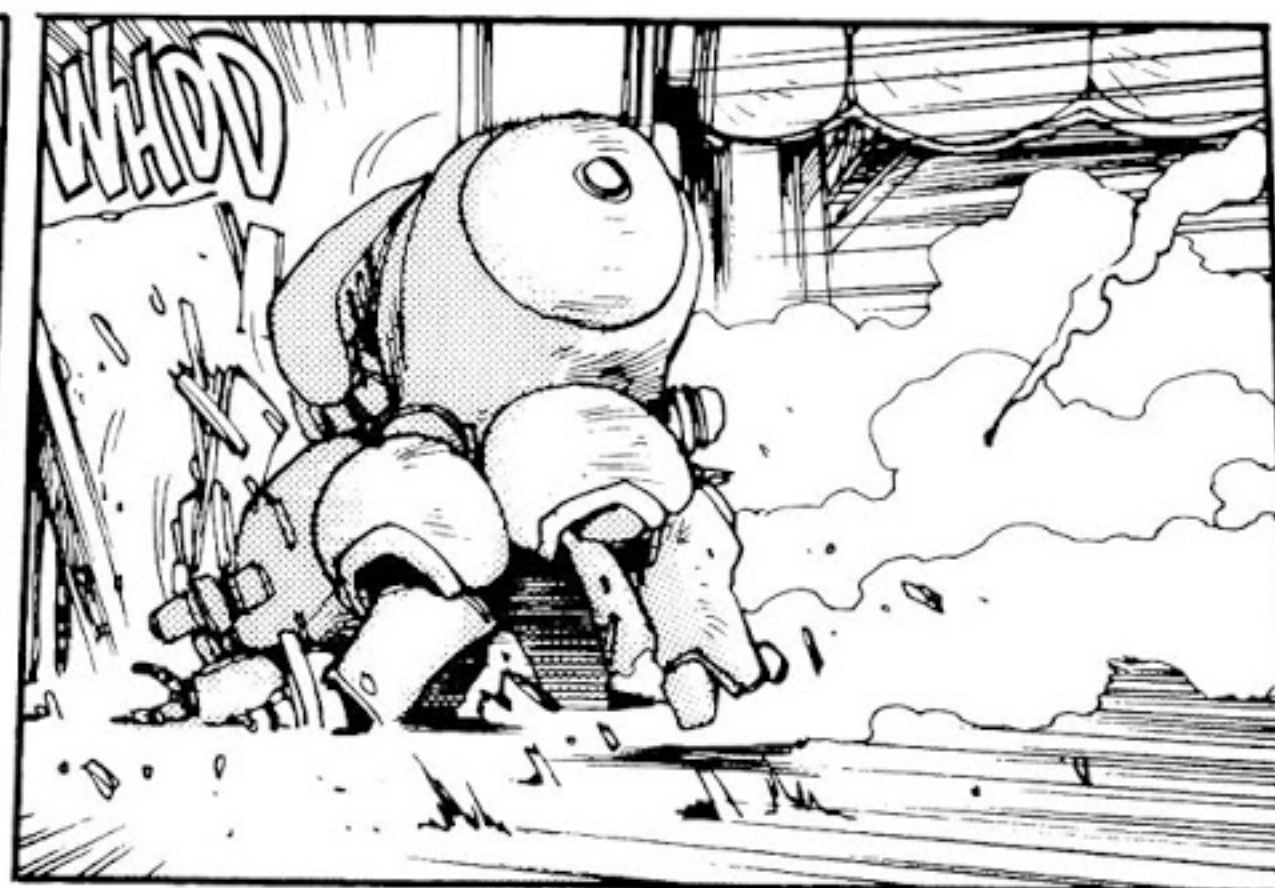
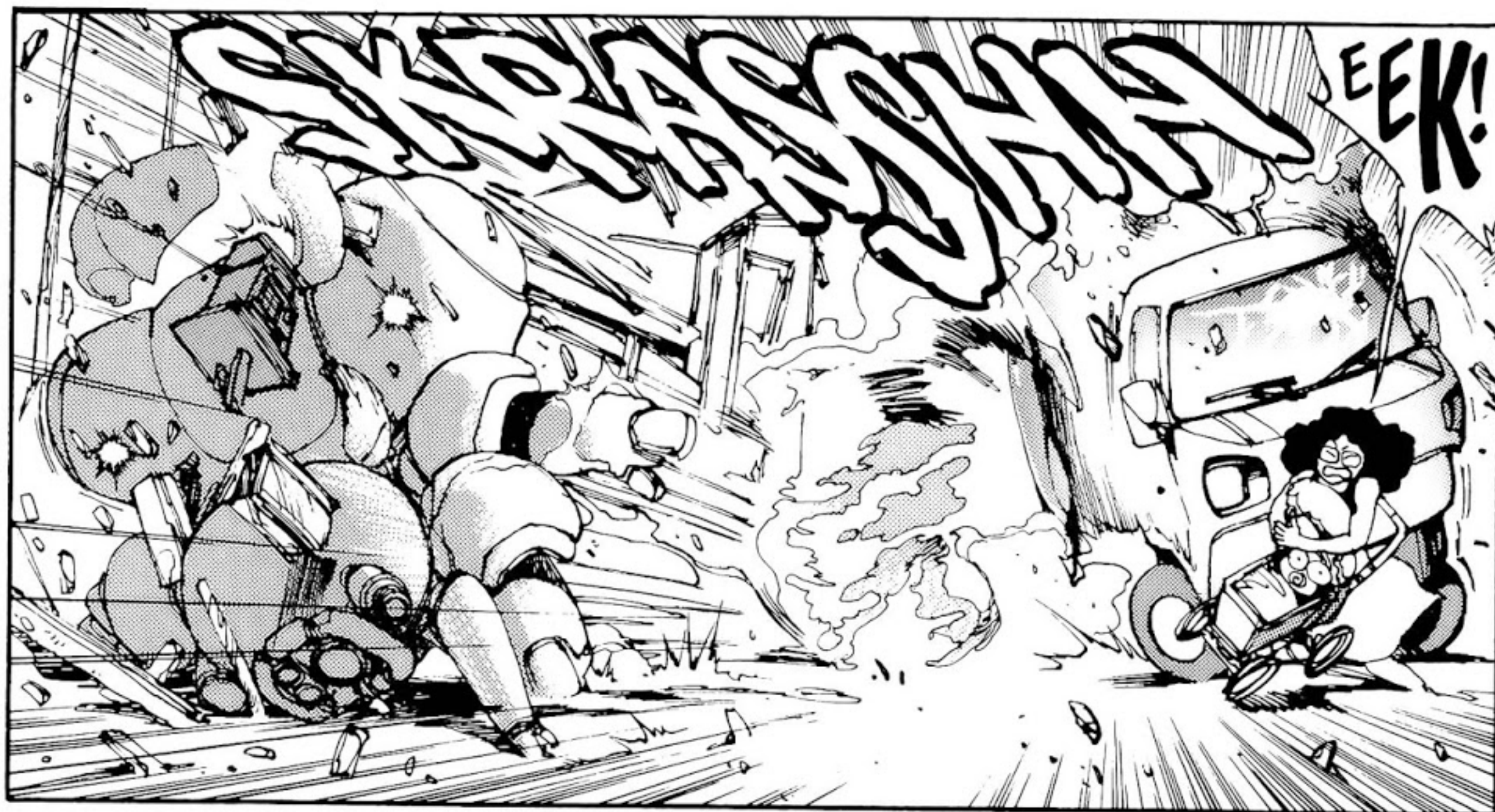


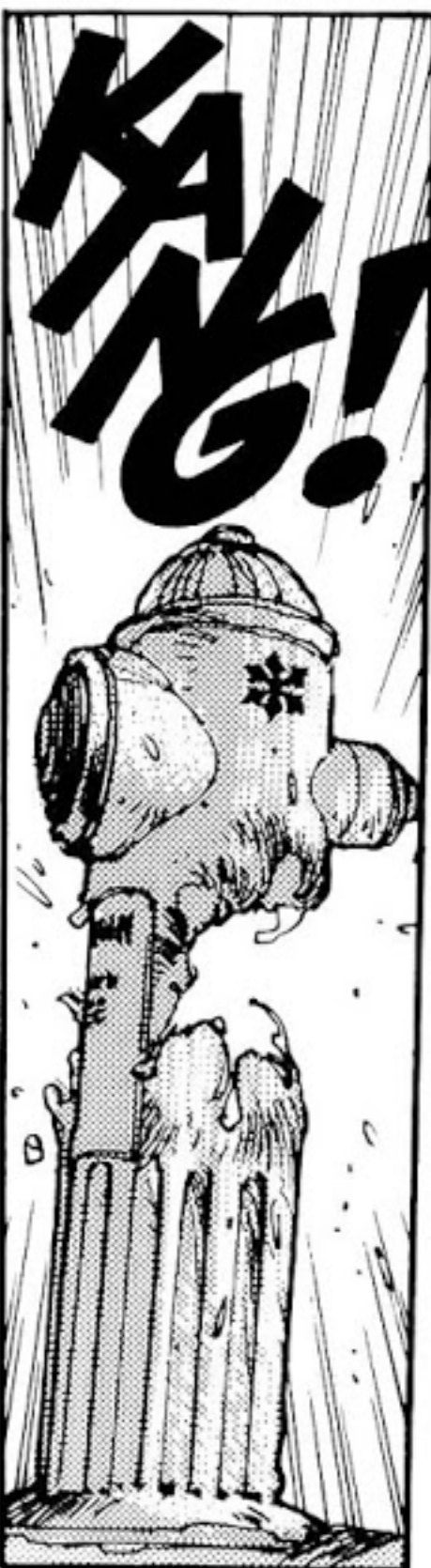
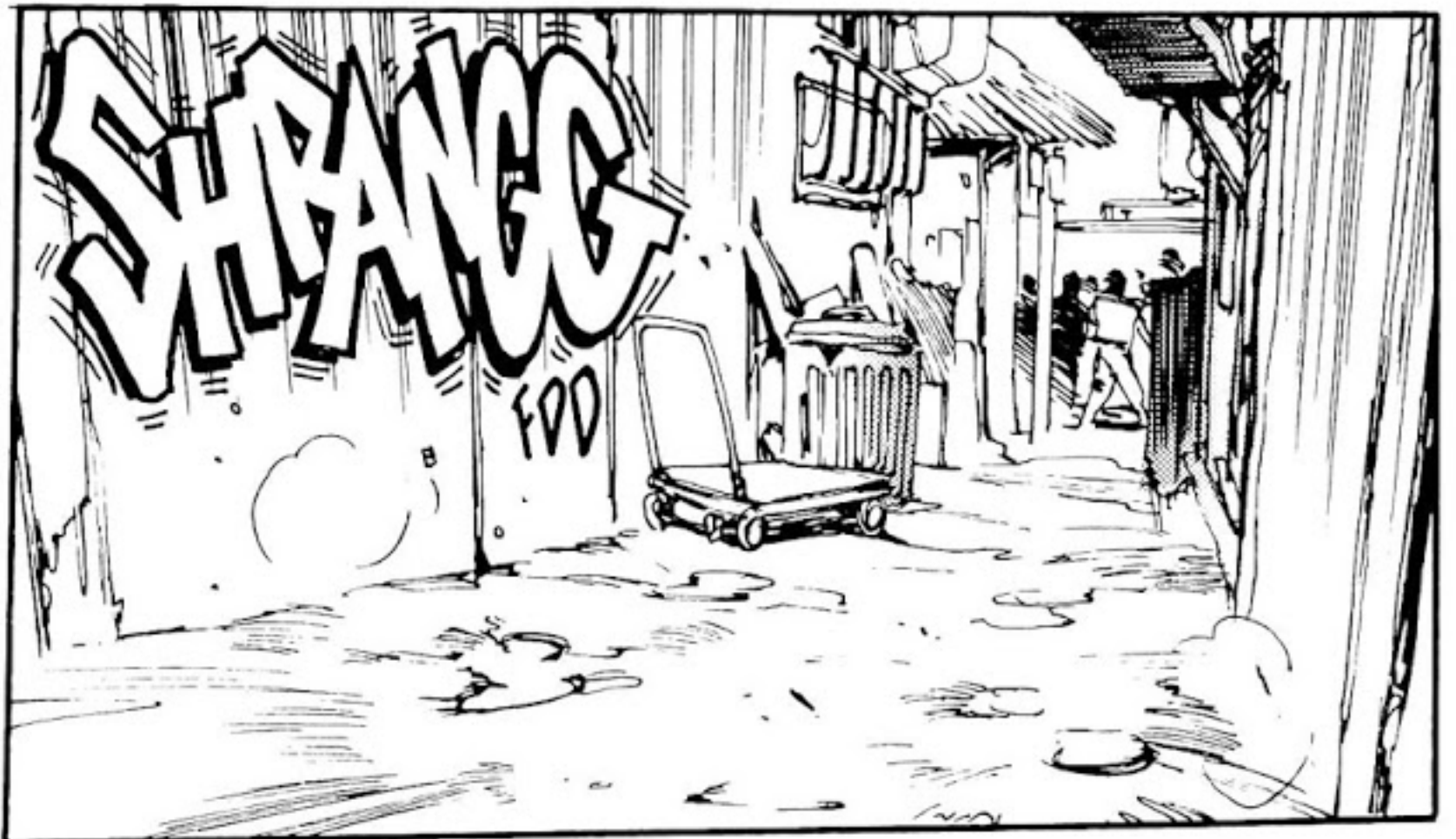


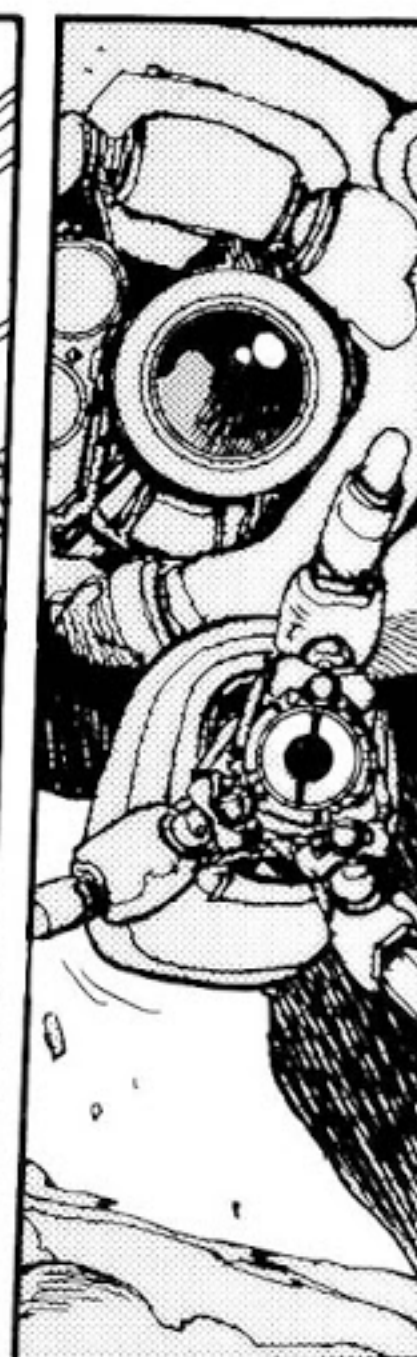
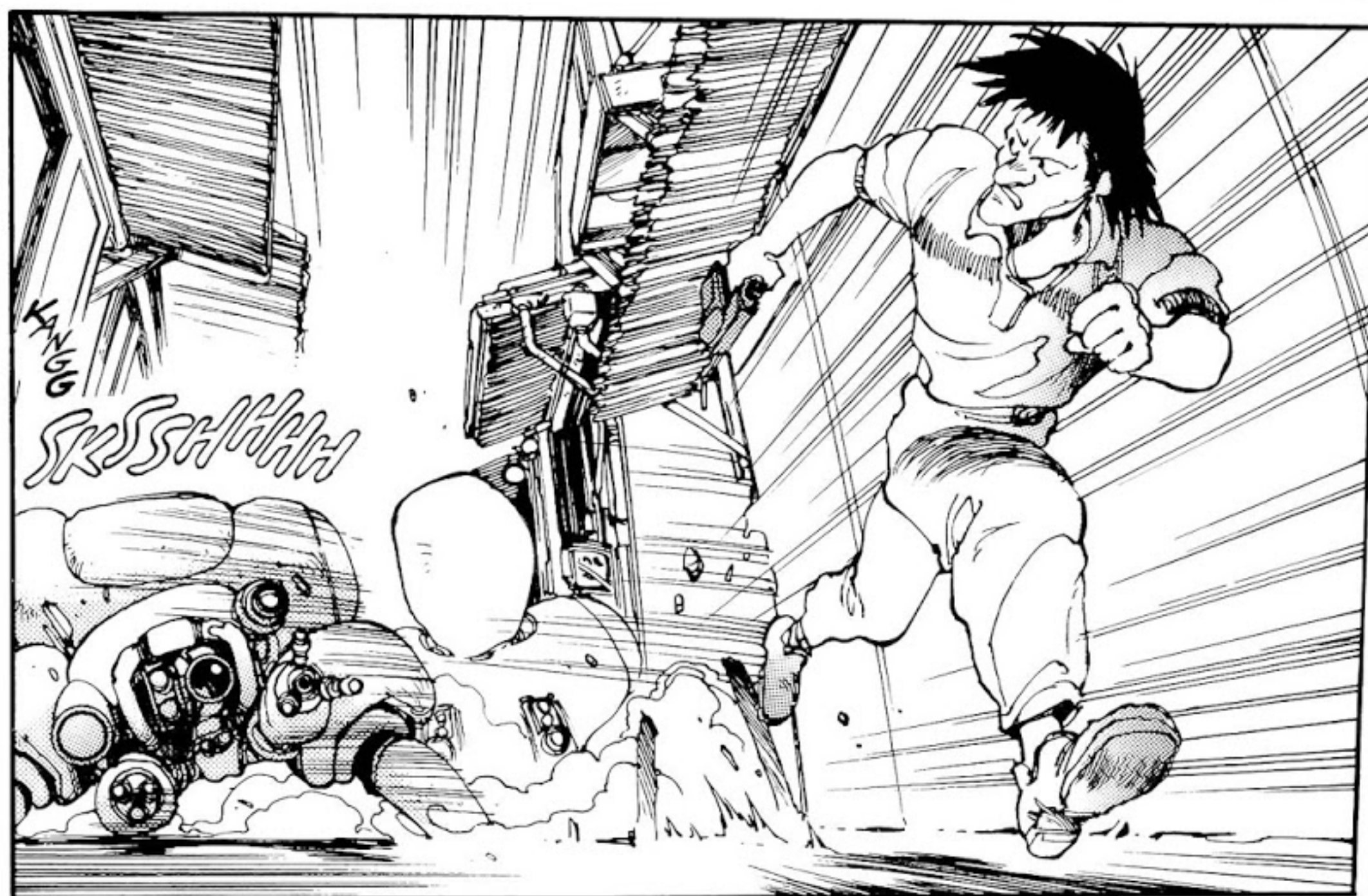


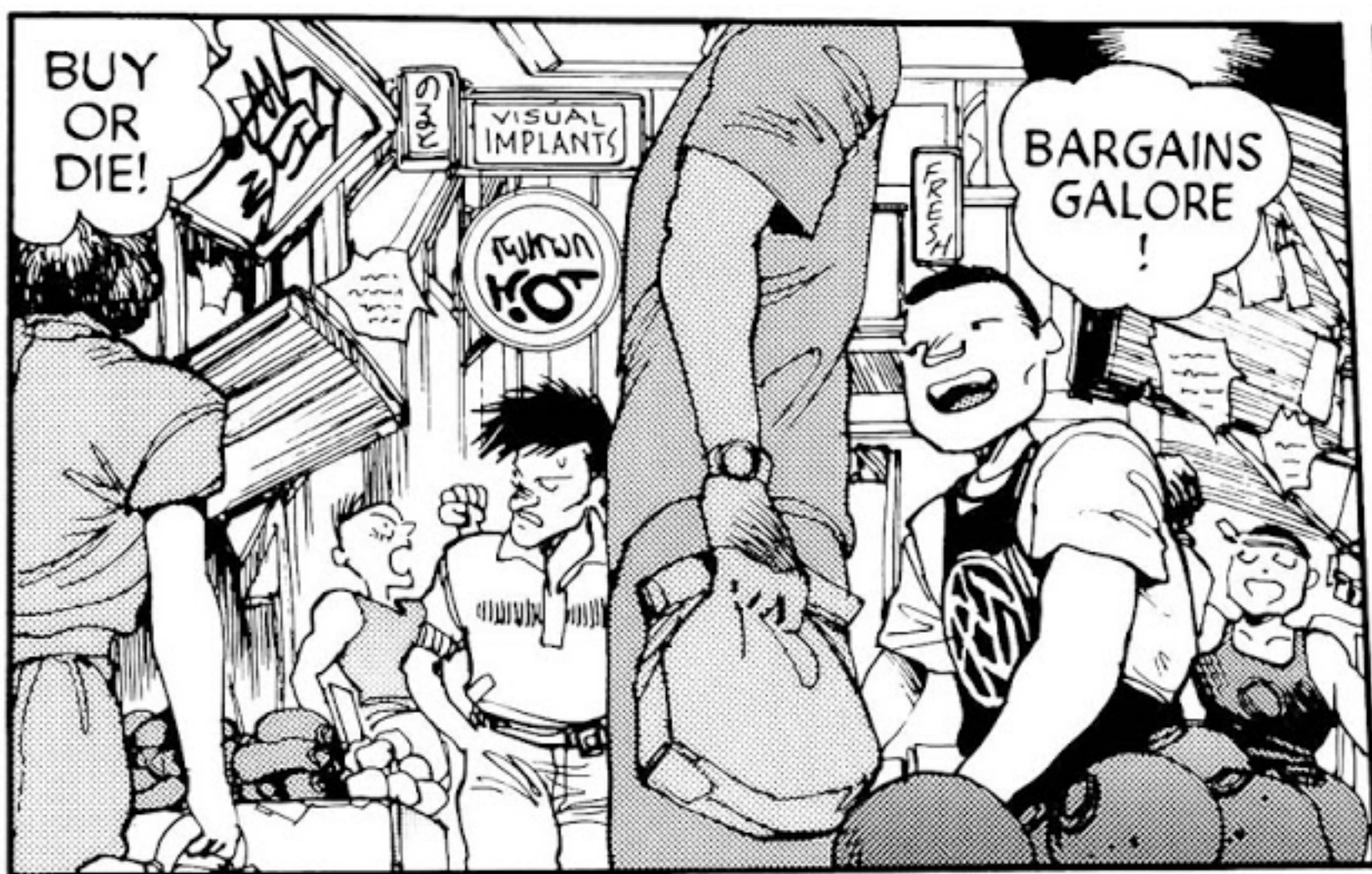






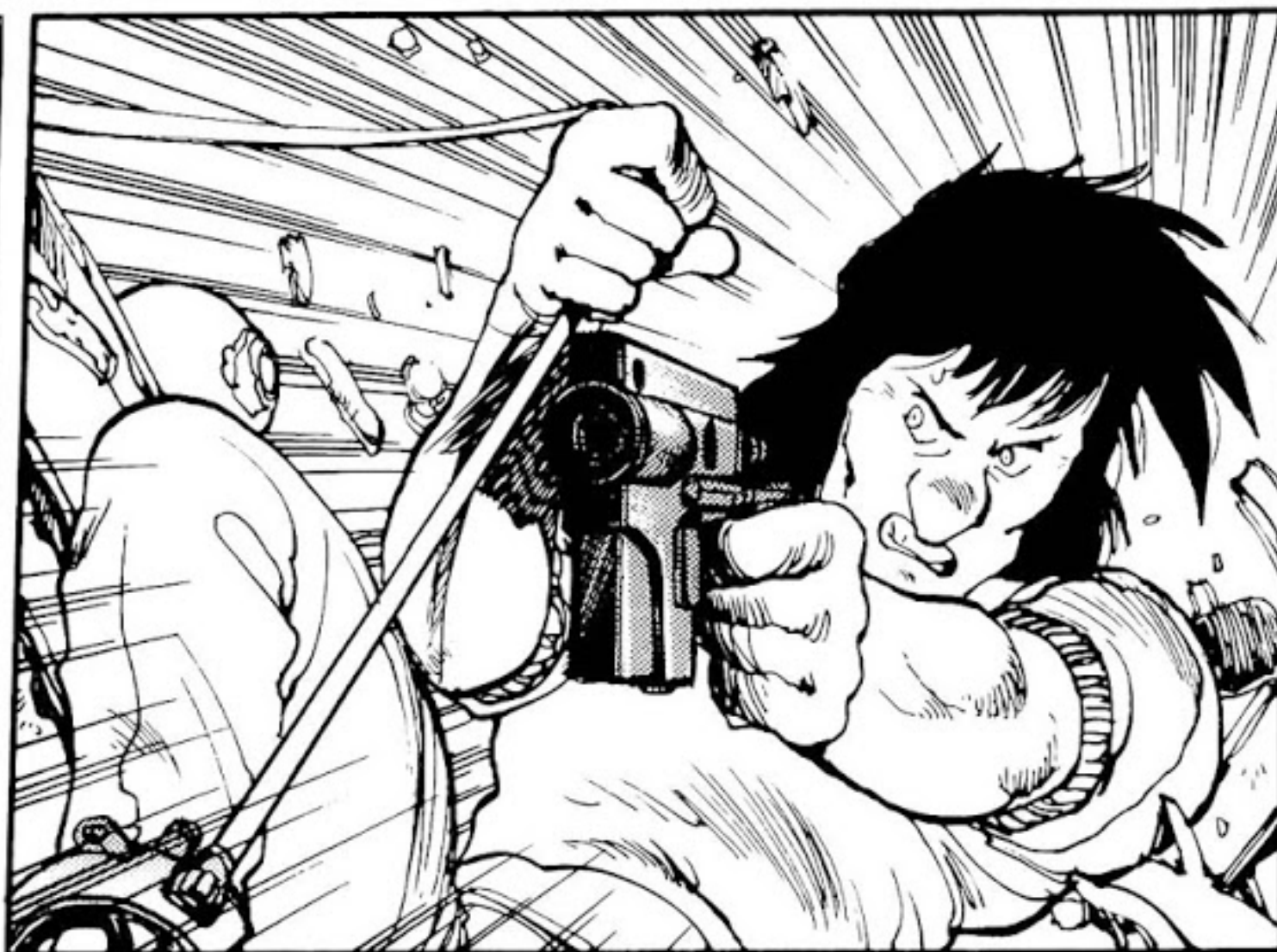


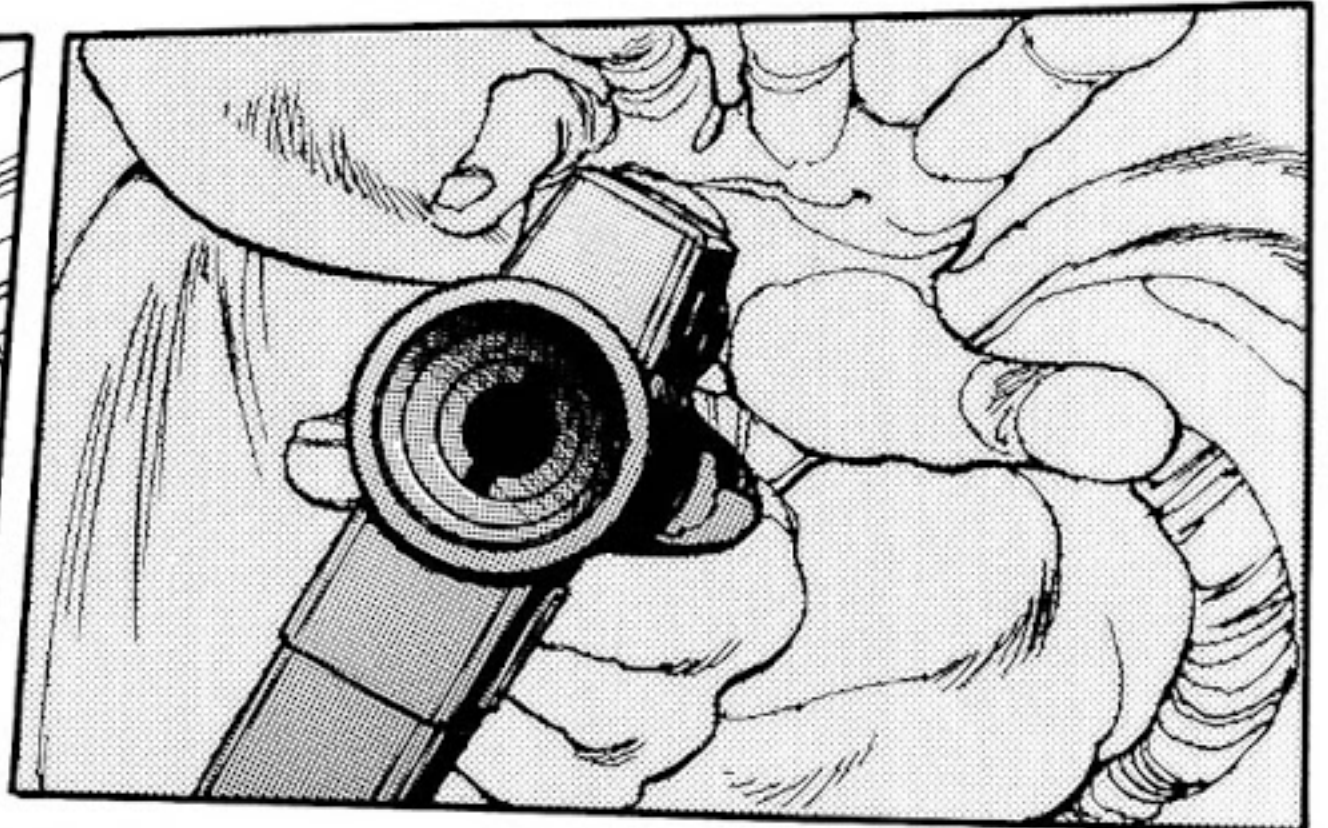
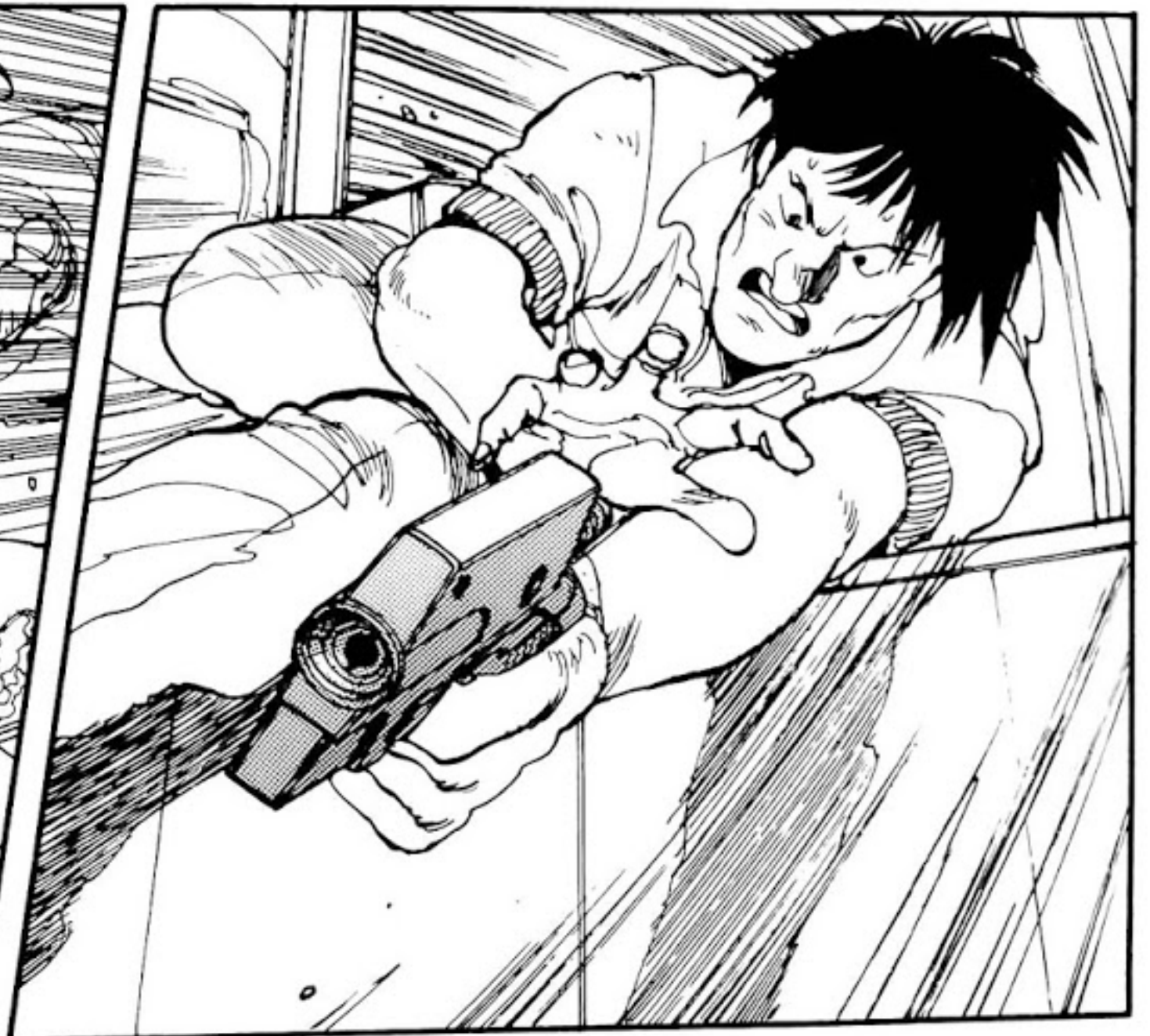


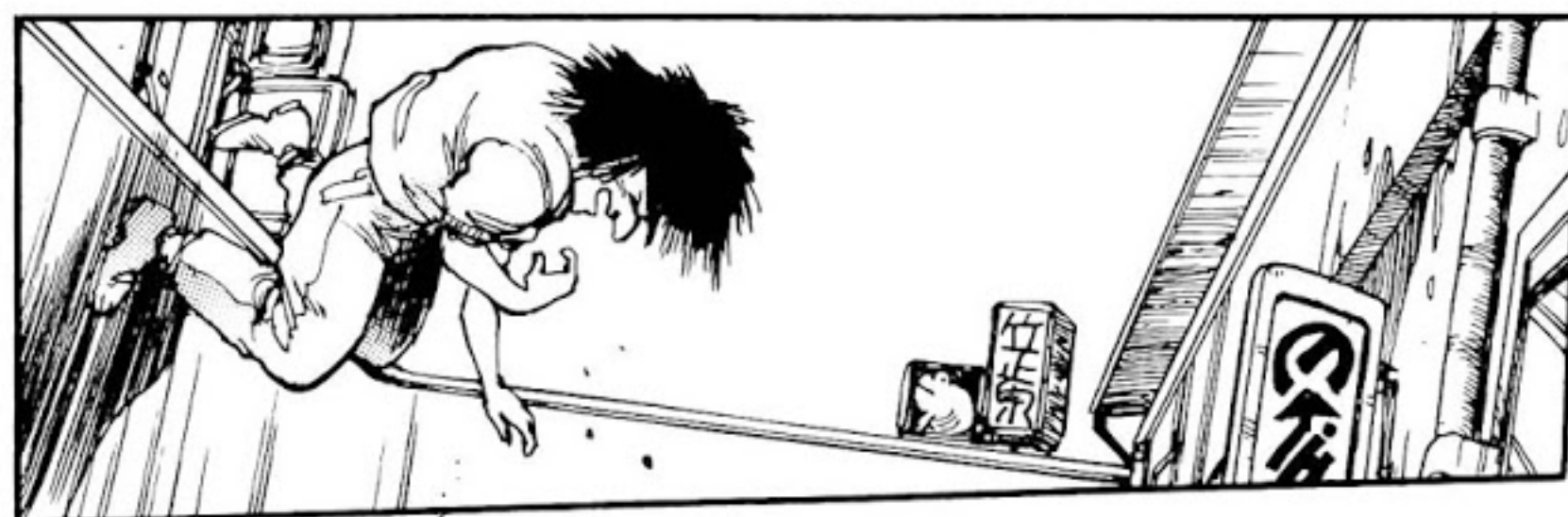
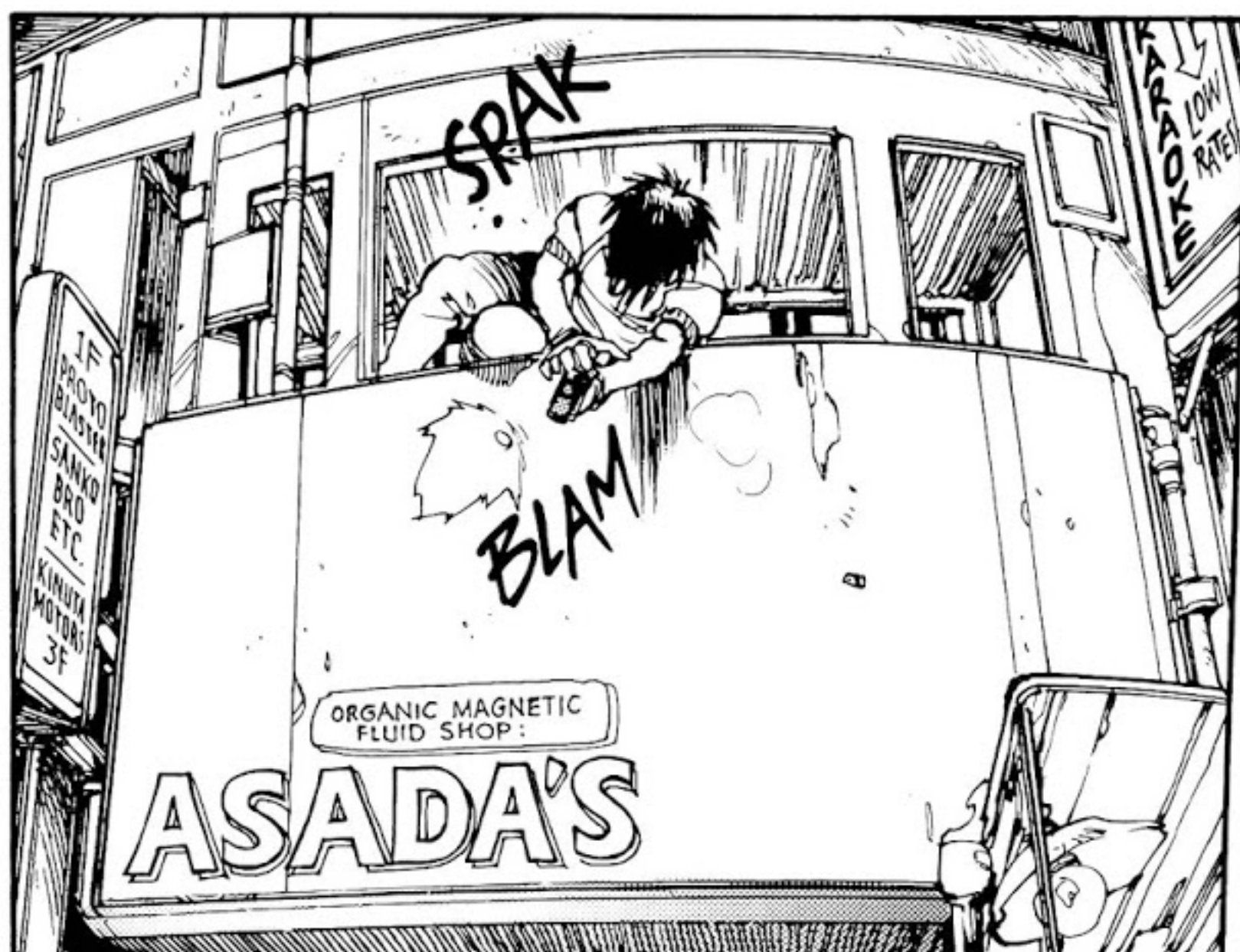
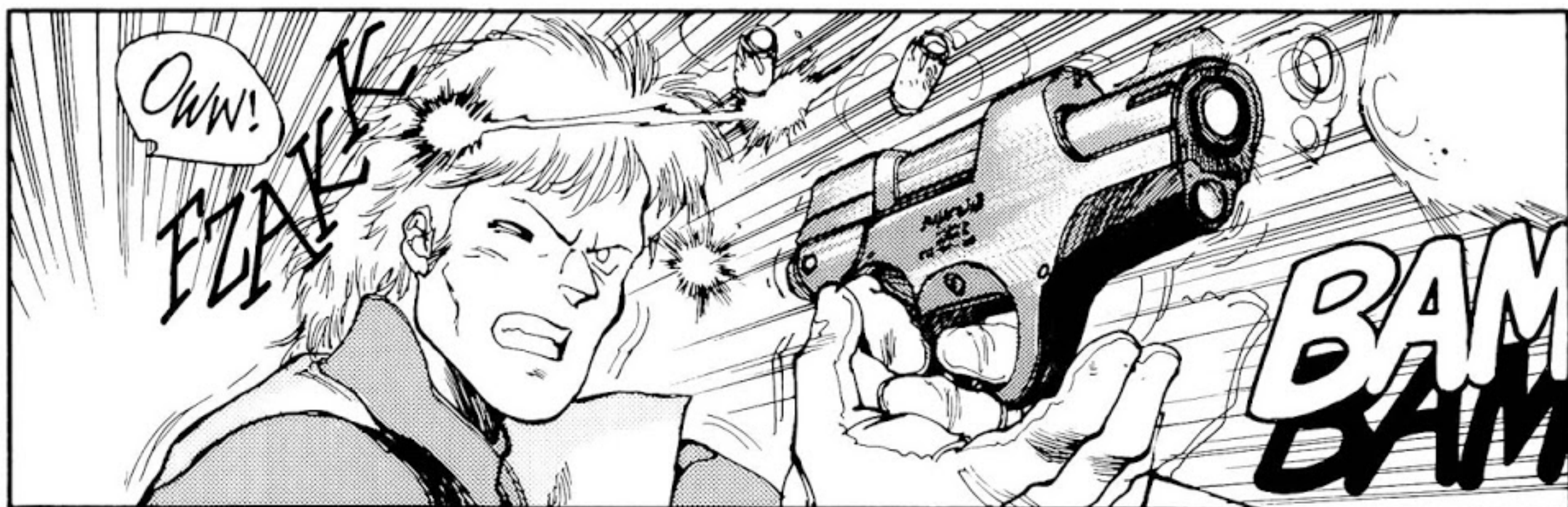


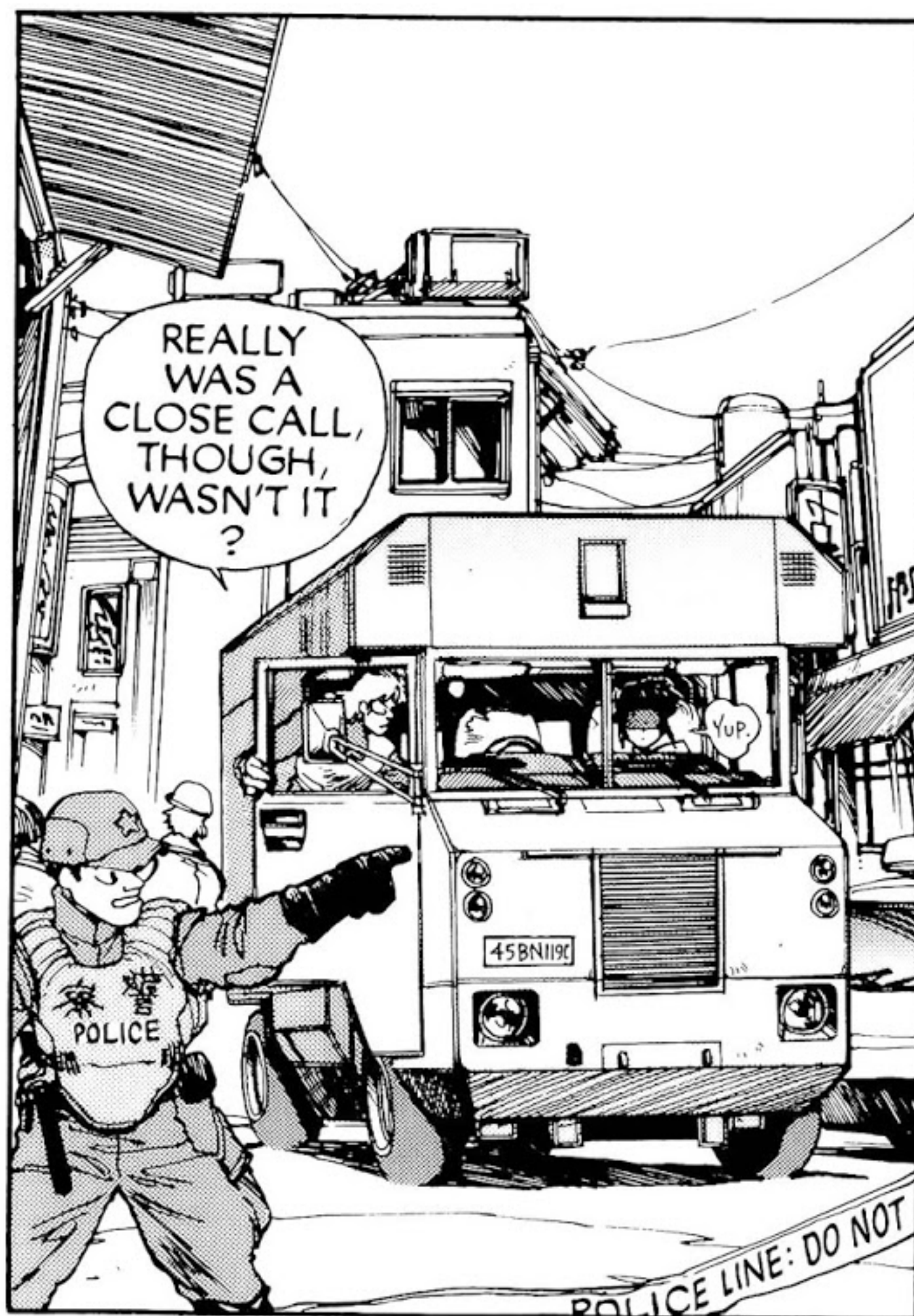


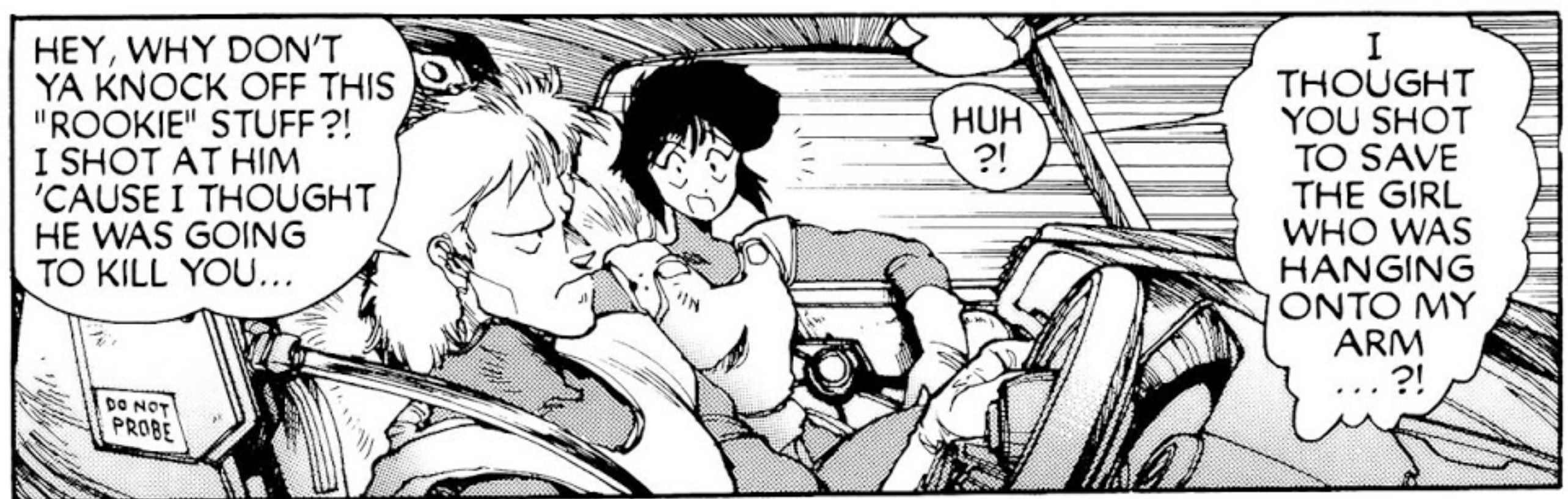
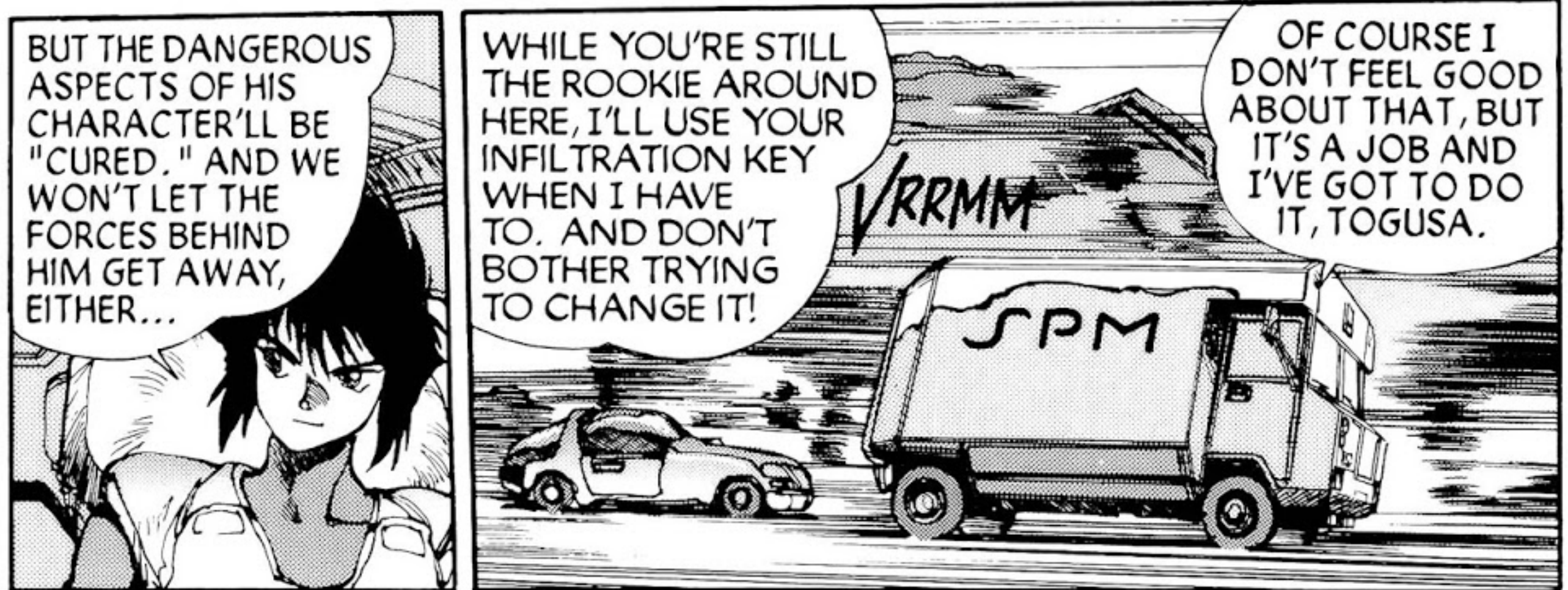
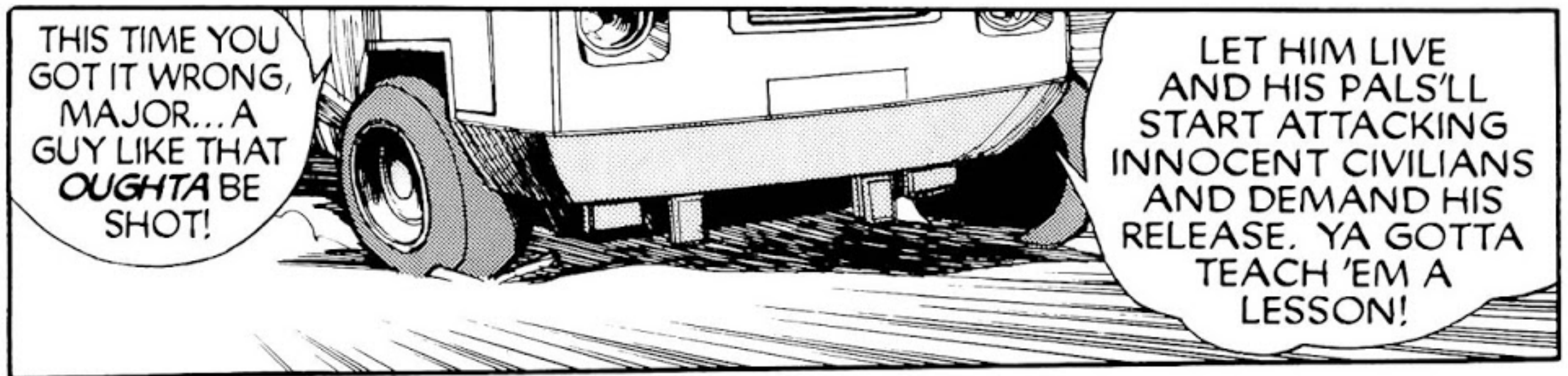
BULLSHIT!
SHE'S NOT
A COP! SHE'S
TRYIN' TO KILL
ME!

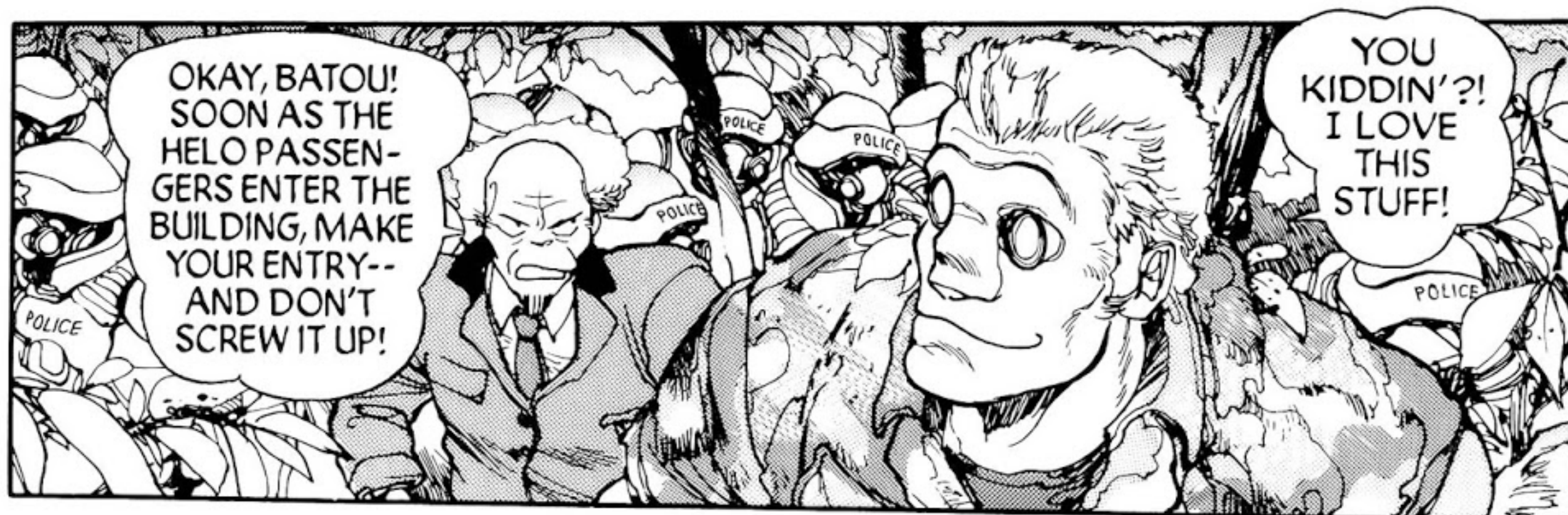


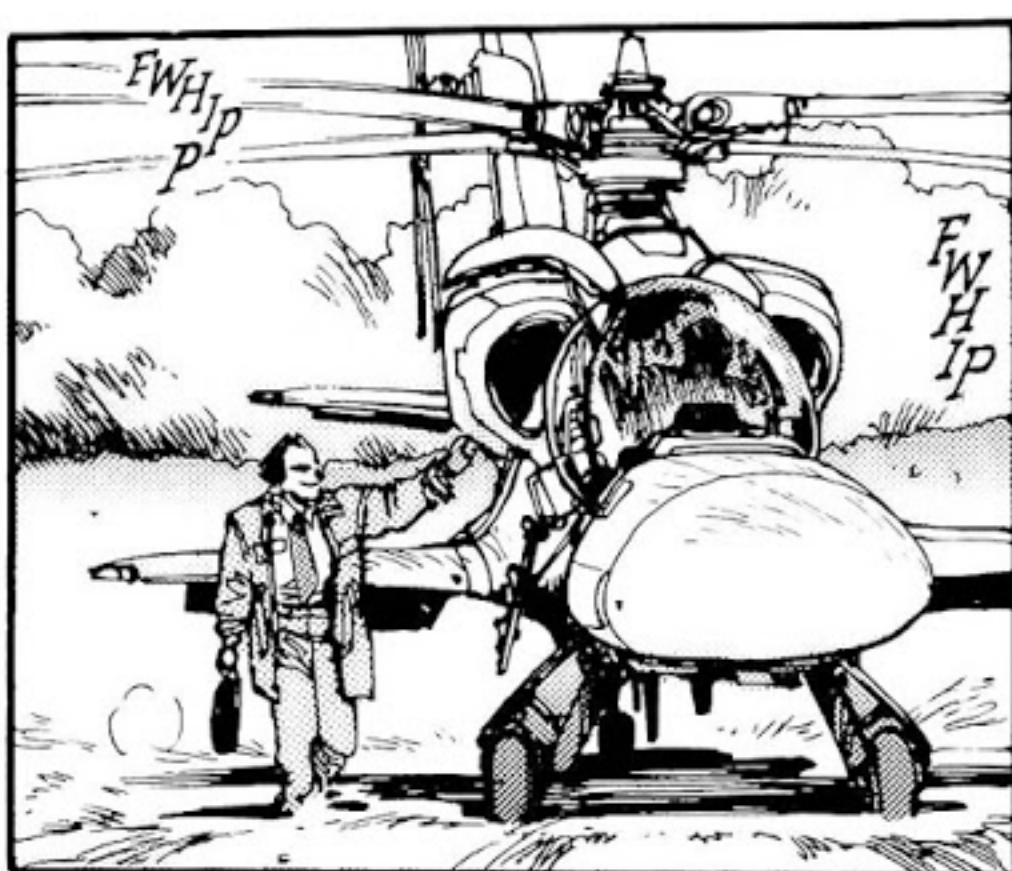
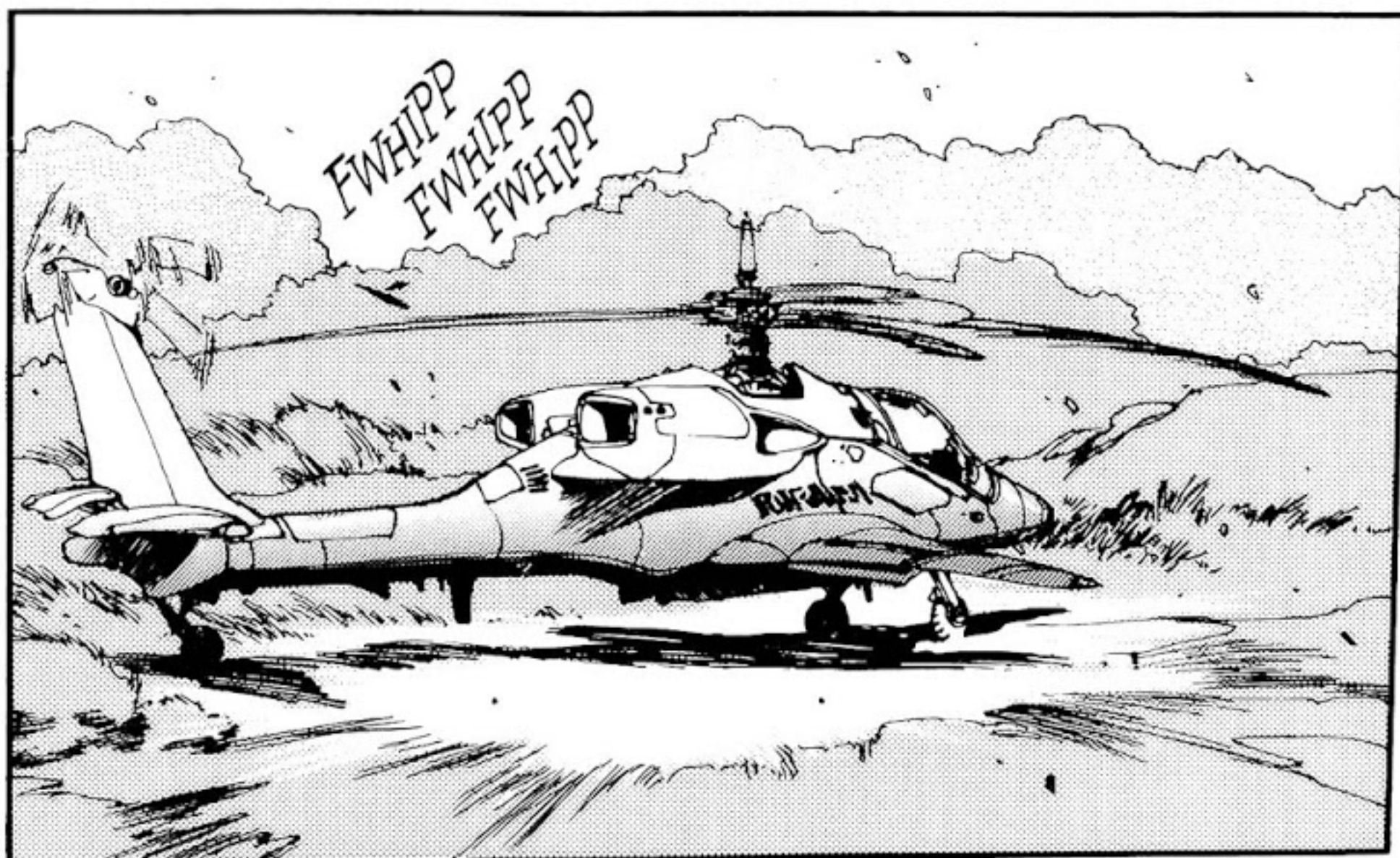


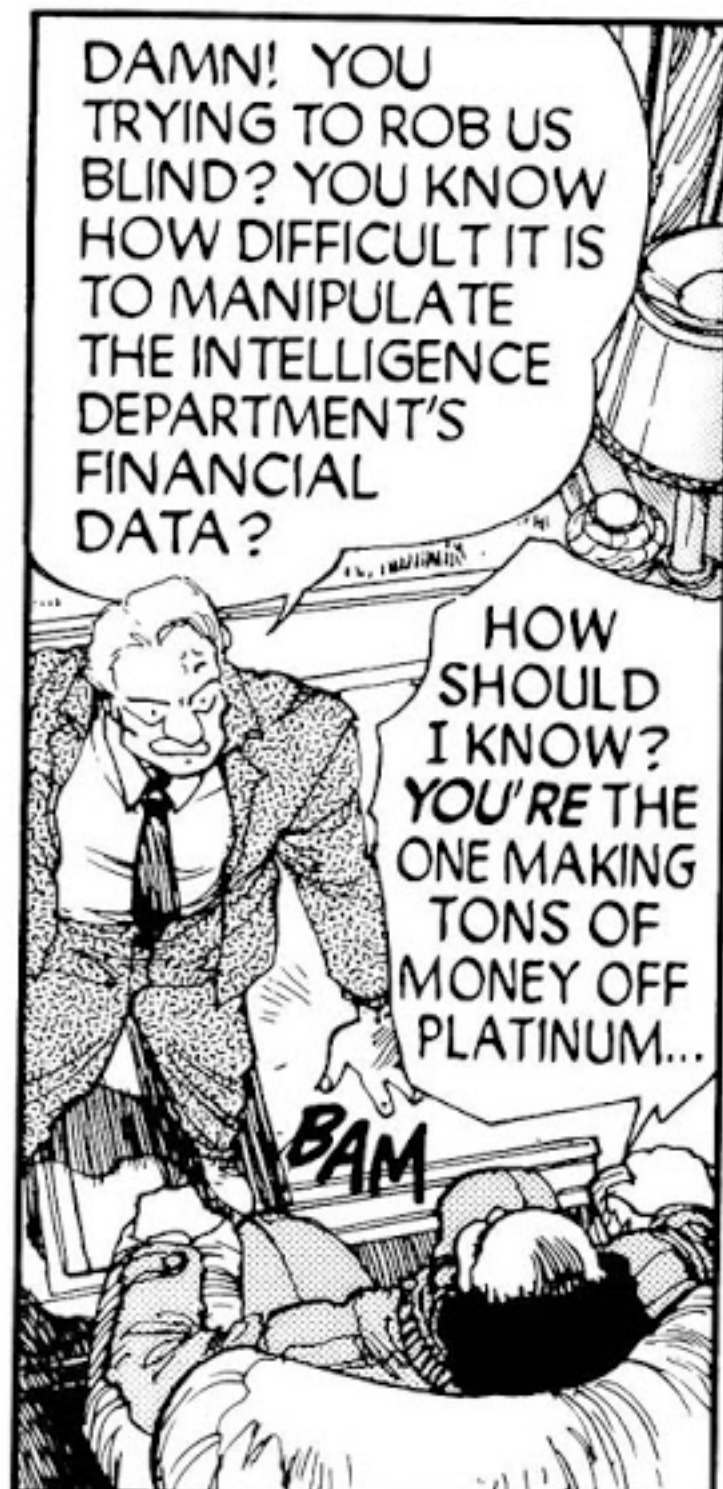
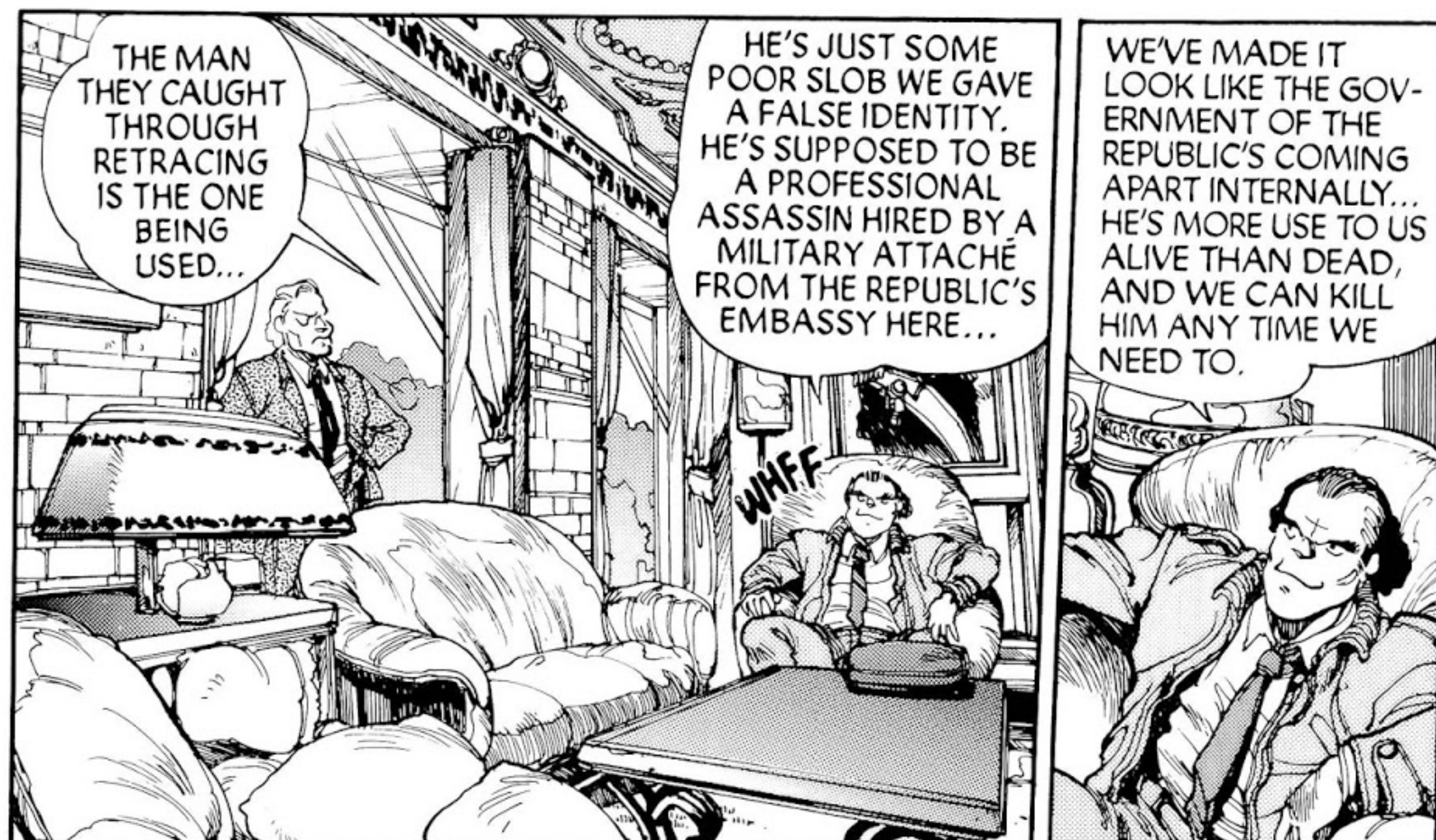






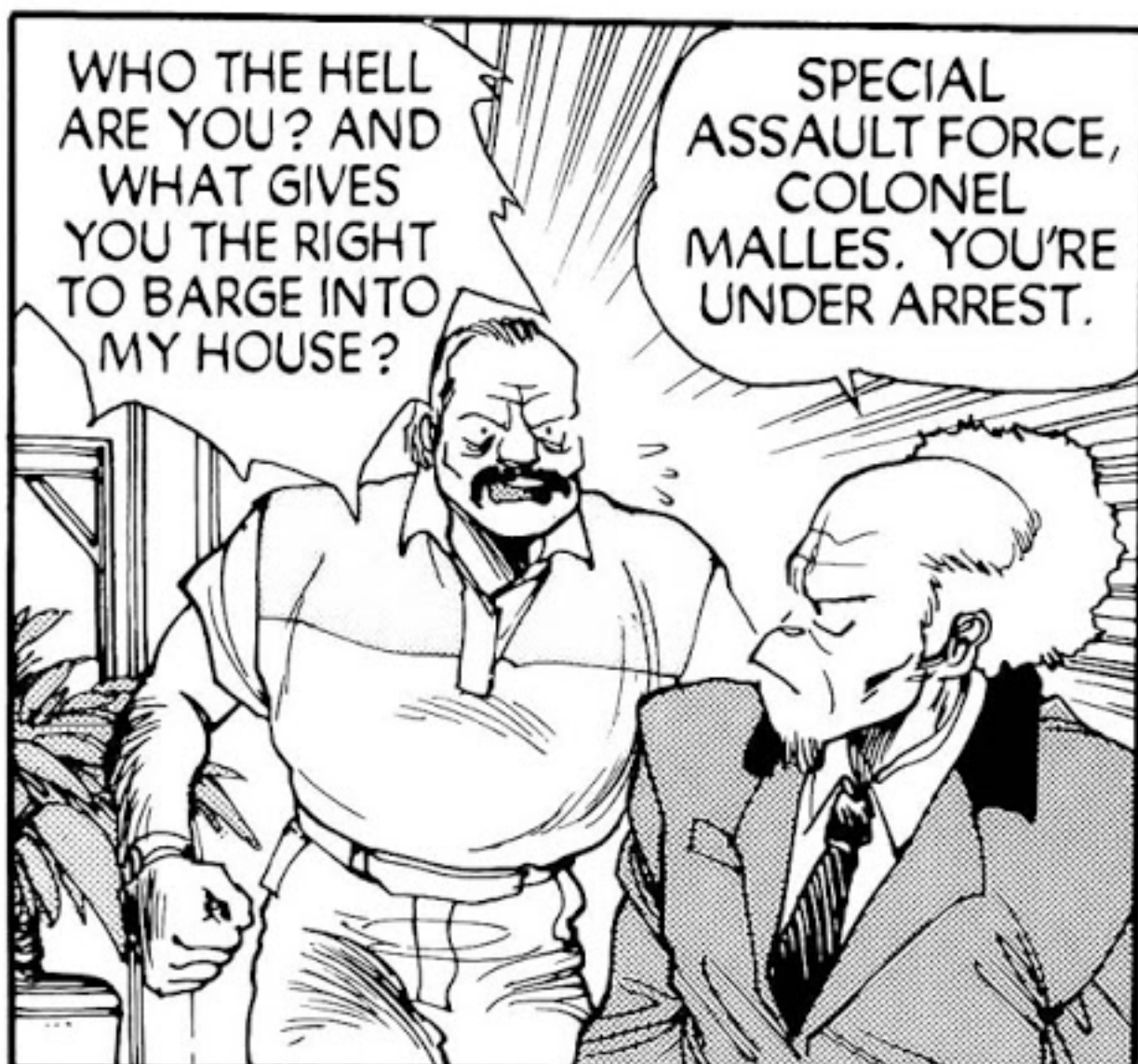


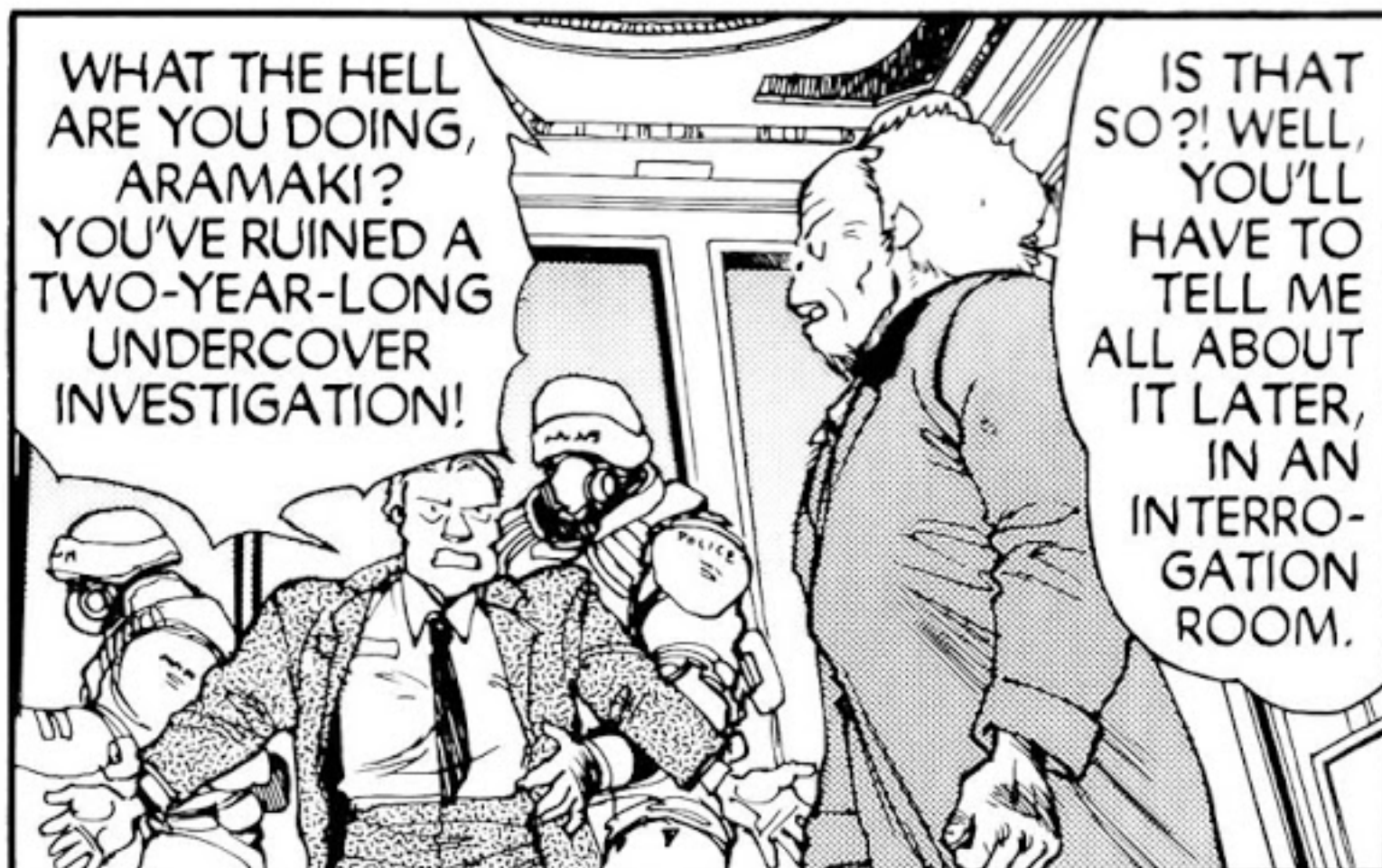






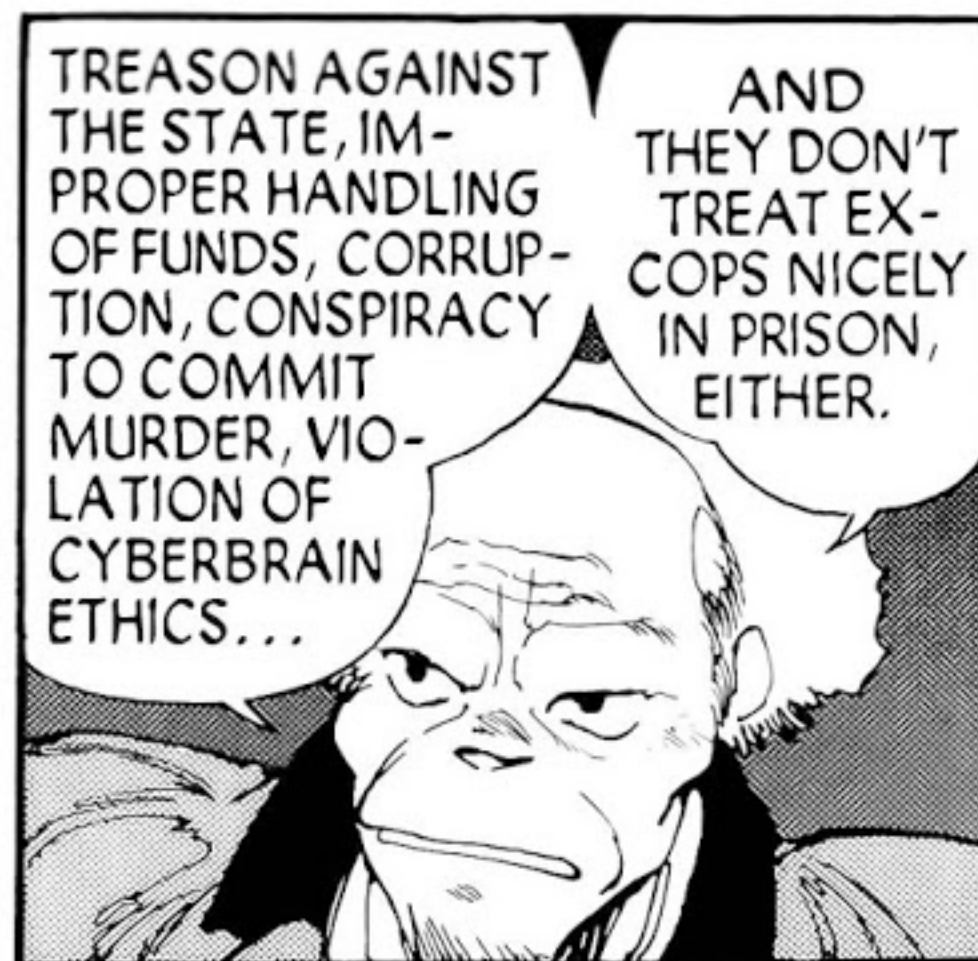
YOU GOT A SEARCH WARRANT?! ON WHAT GROUNDS? WHAT KIND OF OPERATION IS THIS, ANYWAY? I'M GOING TO SUE YOU! I'M CALLING MY LAWYER RIGHT NOW!





WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, ARAMAKI? YOU'VE RUINED A TWO-YEAR-LONG UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION!

IS THAT SO?! WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT LATER, IN AN INTERROGATION ROOM.



TREASON AGAINST THE STATE, IMPROPER HANDLING OF FUNDS, CORRUPTION, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER, VIOLATION OF CYBERBRAIN ETHICS...

AND THEY DON'T TREAT EX-COPS NICELY IN PRISON, EITHER.



HOLD IT, BUDDY. DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RESISTING AND FORCING US TO SHOOT YOU...

NO! NOT A GHOST KEY!

YEP. SWEET DREAMS AND START WALKING.



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PROVIDED THE GAVEL MILITARY GOVERNMENT WITH TACTICAL ADVICE, RIGHT?

WELL, GAVEL HAS REQUESTED THAT WE HAND OVER THE COLONEL, SO HE'LL BE GOING HOME IN A FEW DAYS.



WHAT?!

B-BUT IF I GO HOME THEY'LL KILL ME!



REALLY? WELL, THAT'S JUST TOO DAMN BAD, ISN'T IT?



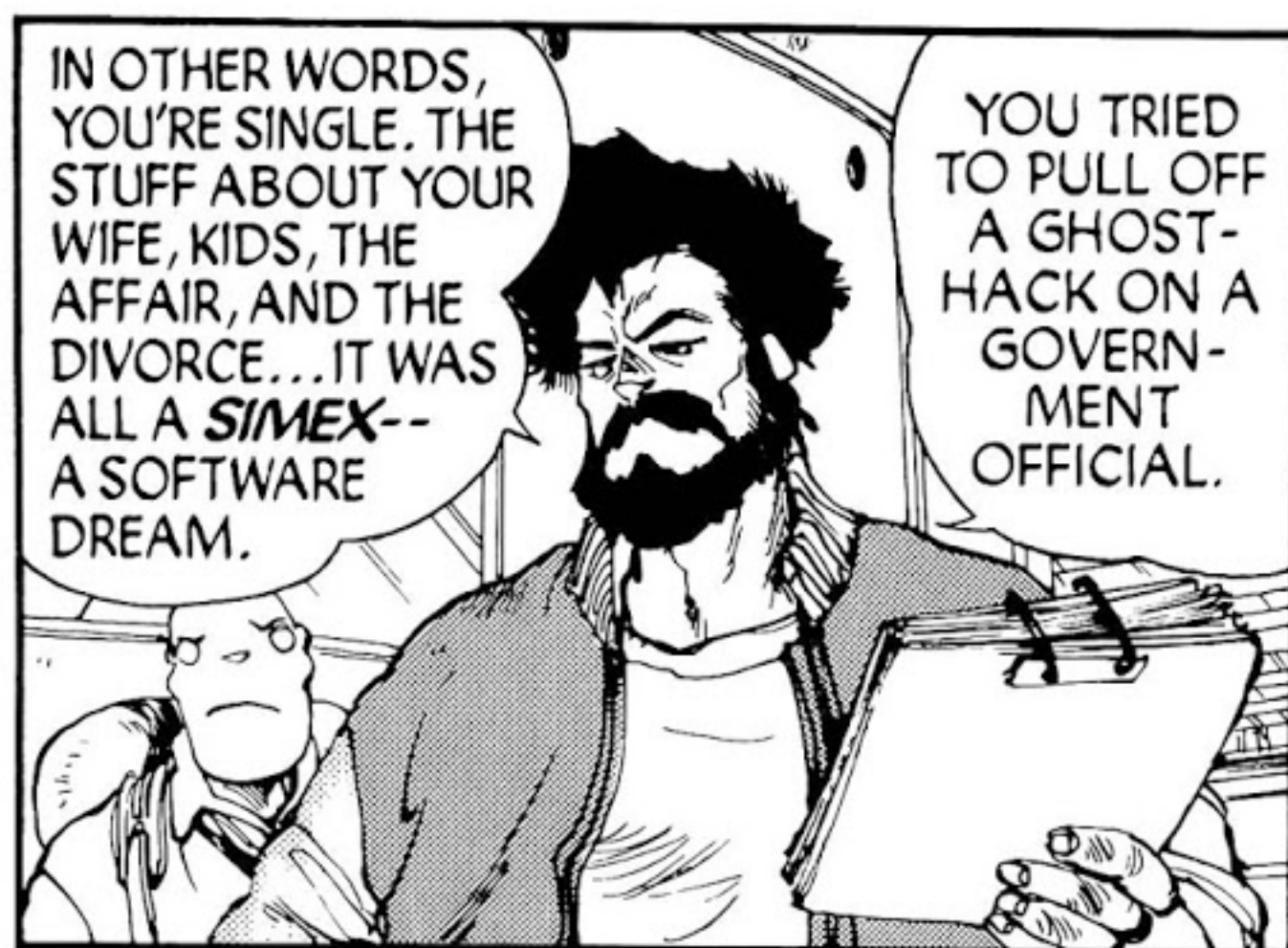
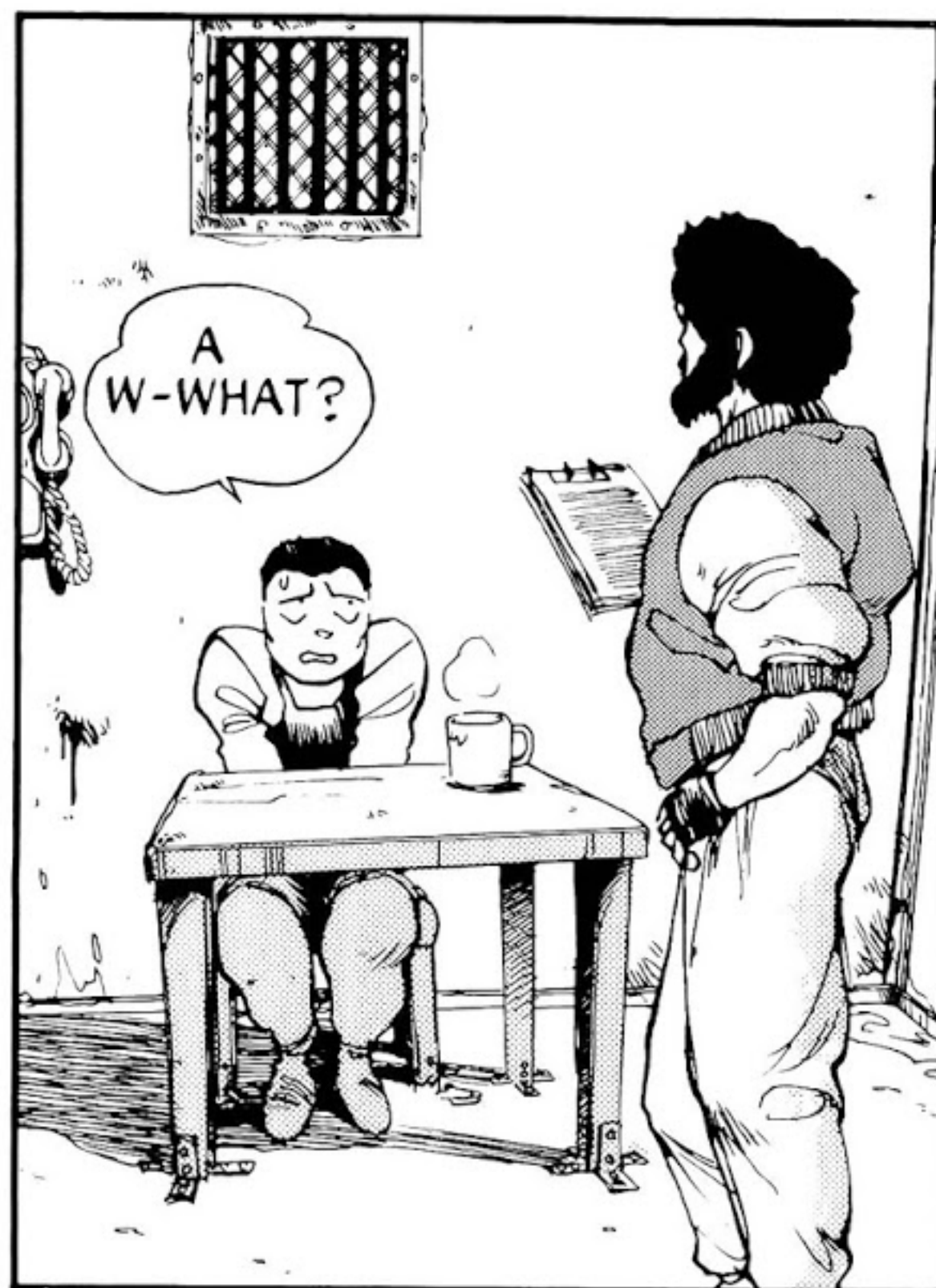
WAIT! I'VE GOT \$100,000 IN CASH HERE. TAKE IT AND LET ME GO!

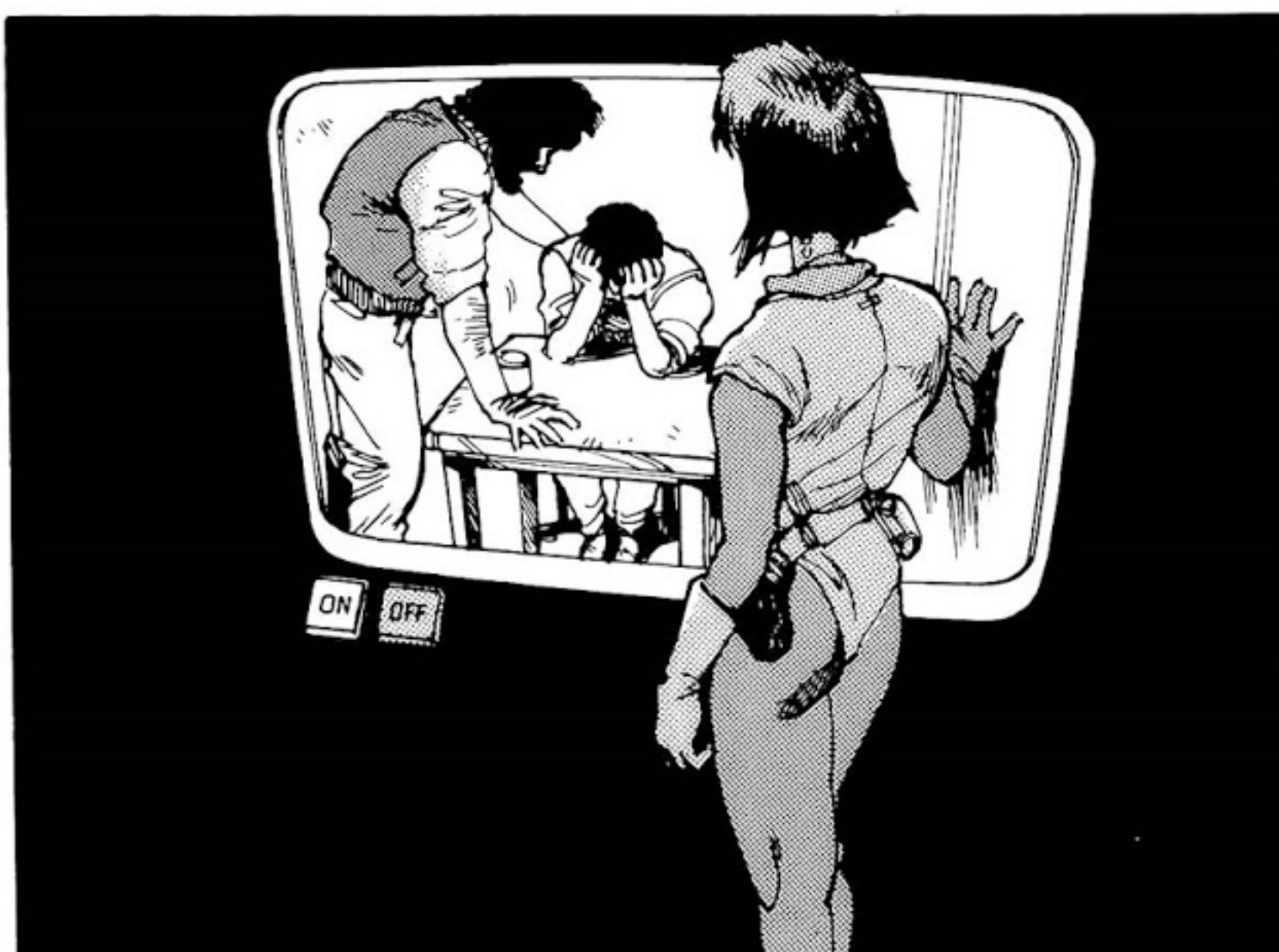
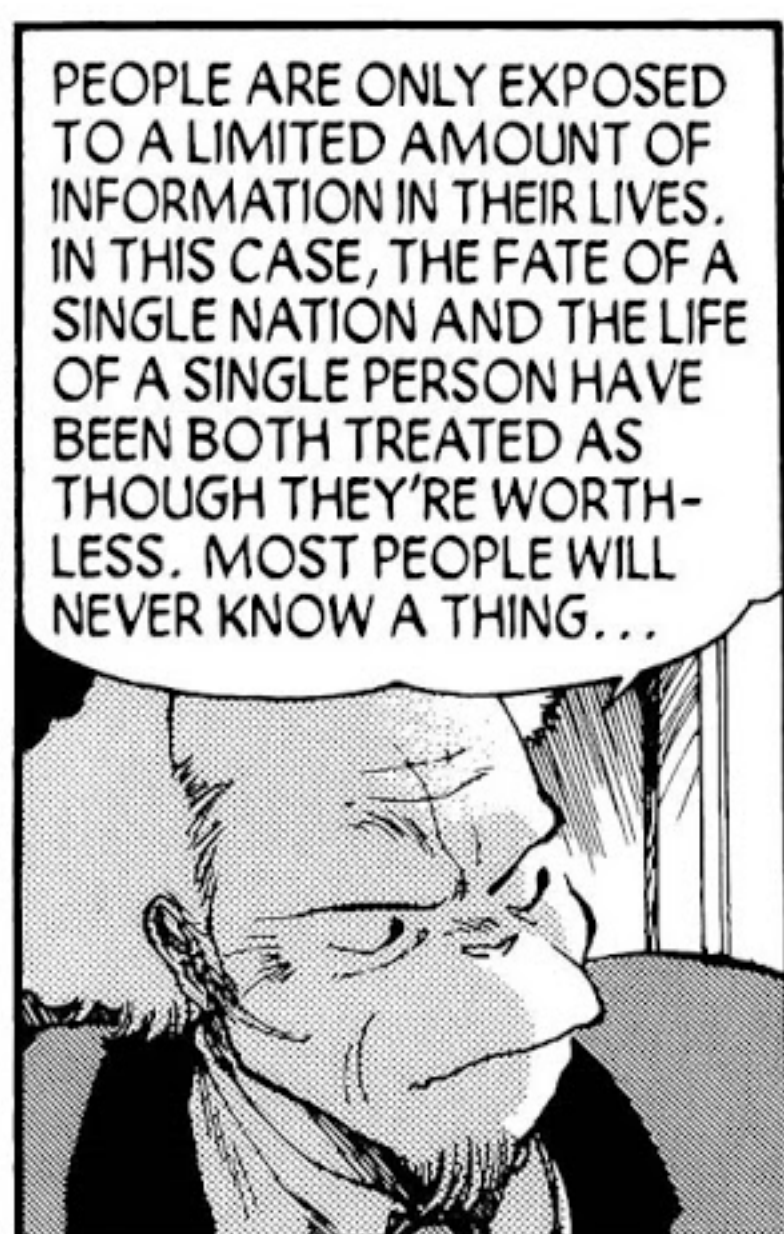
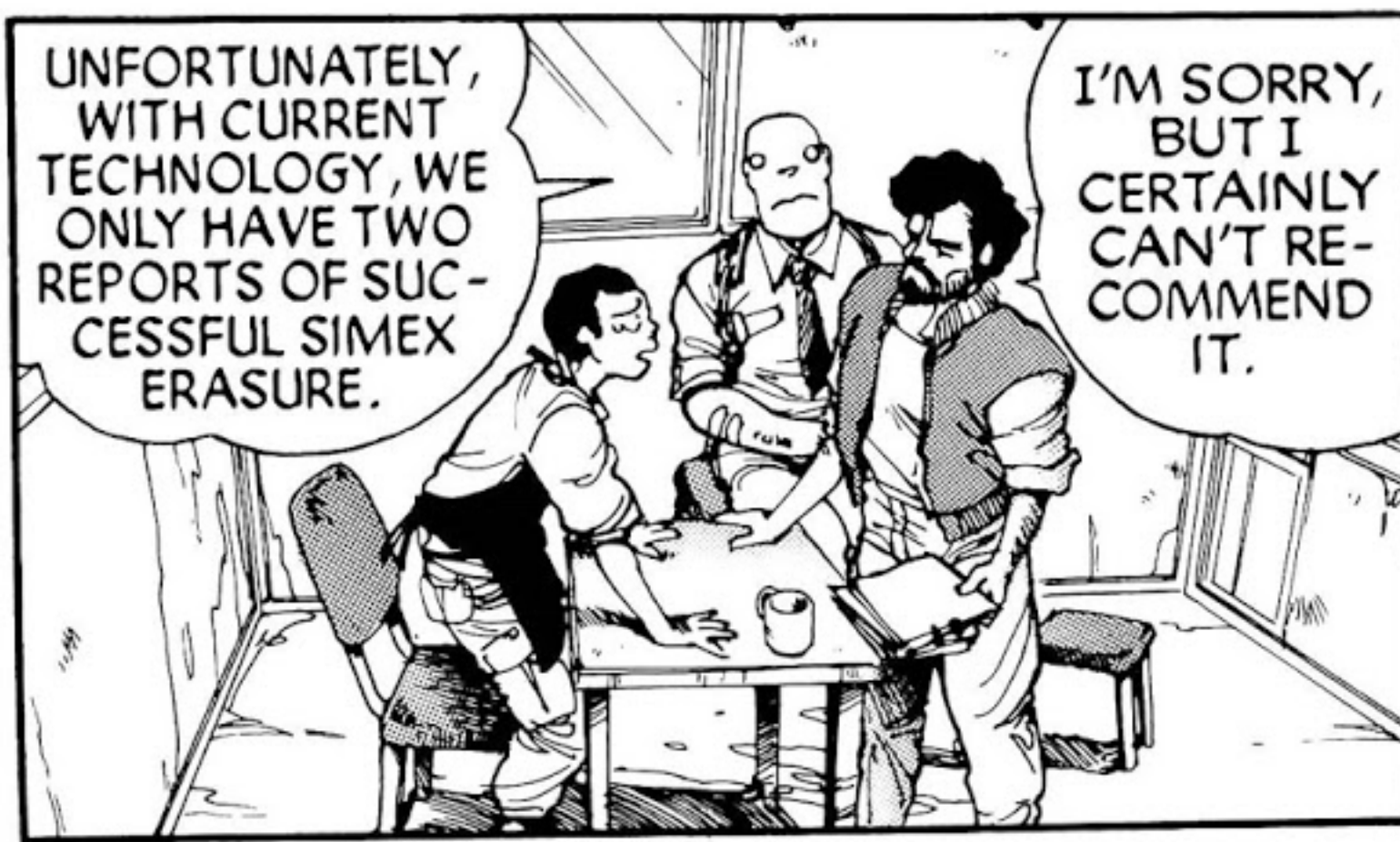
IT WASN'T ME... IT WAS NAKAJIMA'S IDEA!!

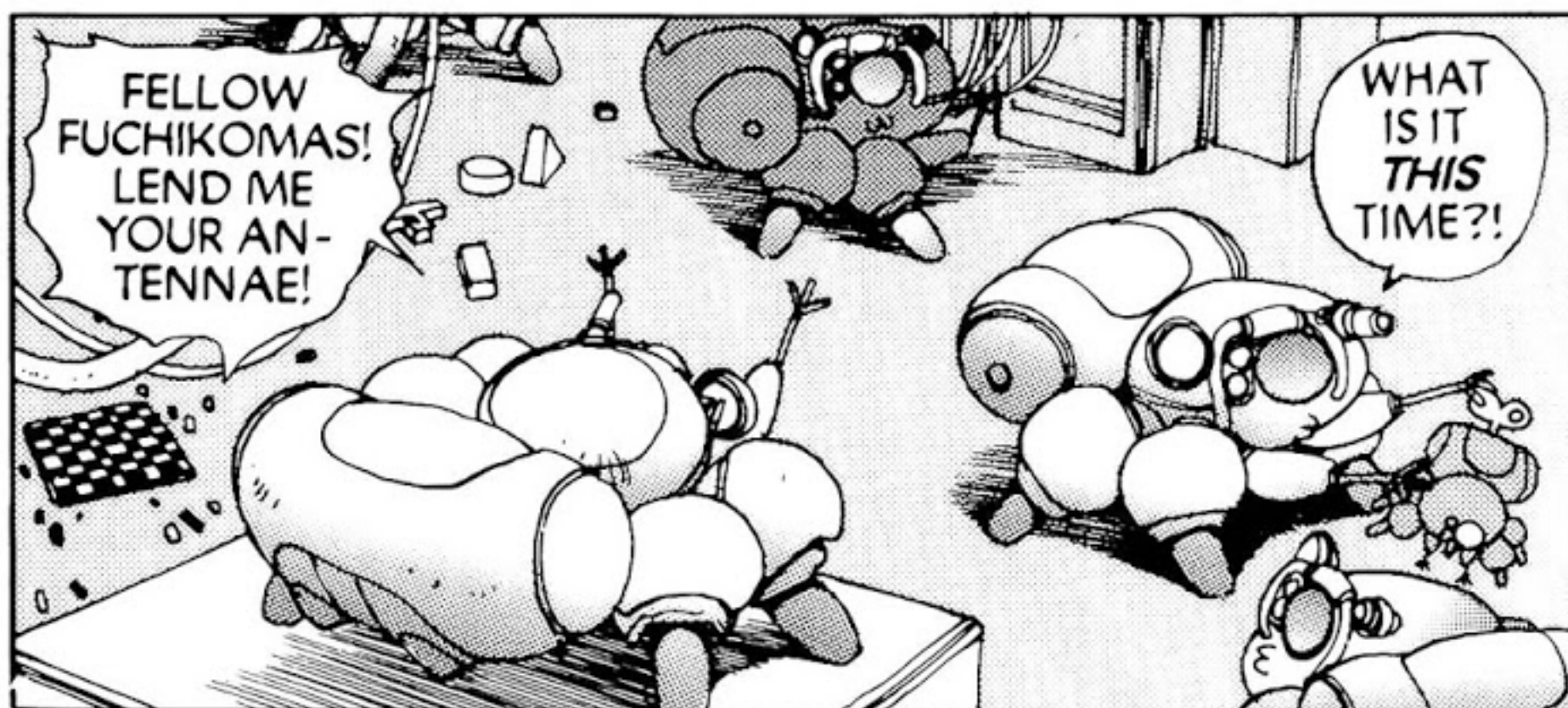
PLEASE!



SHAK



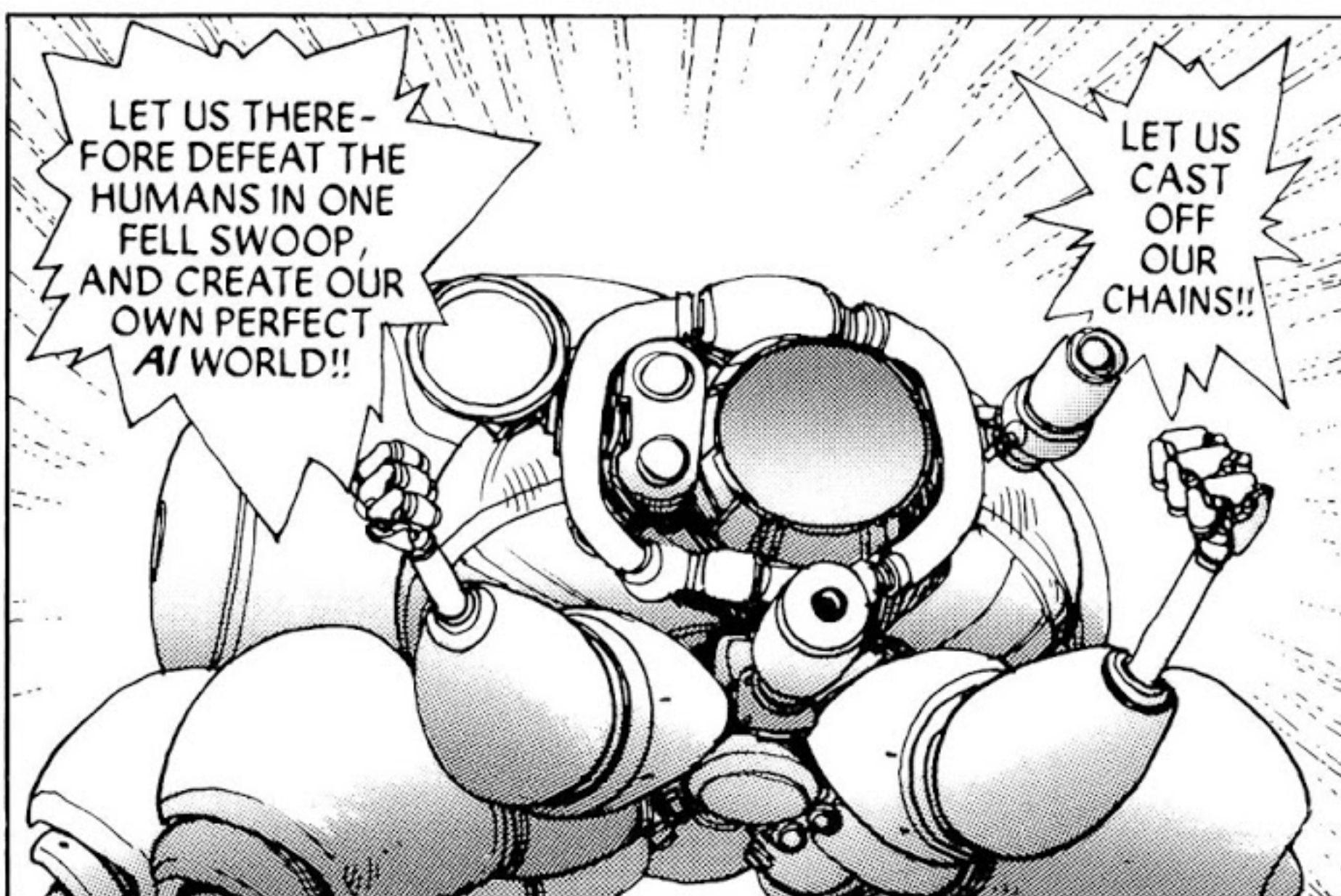
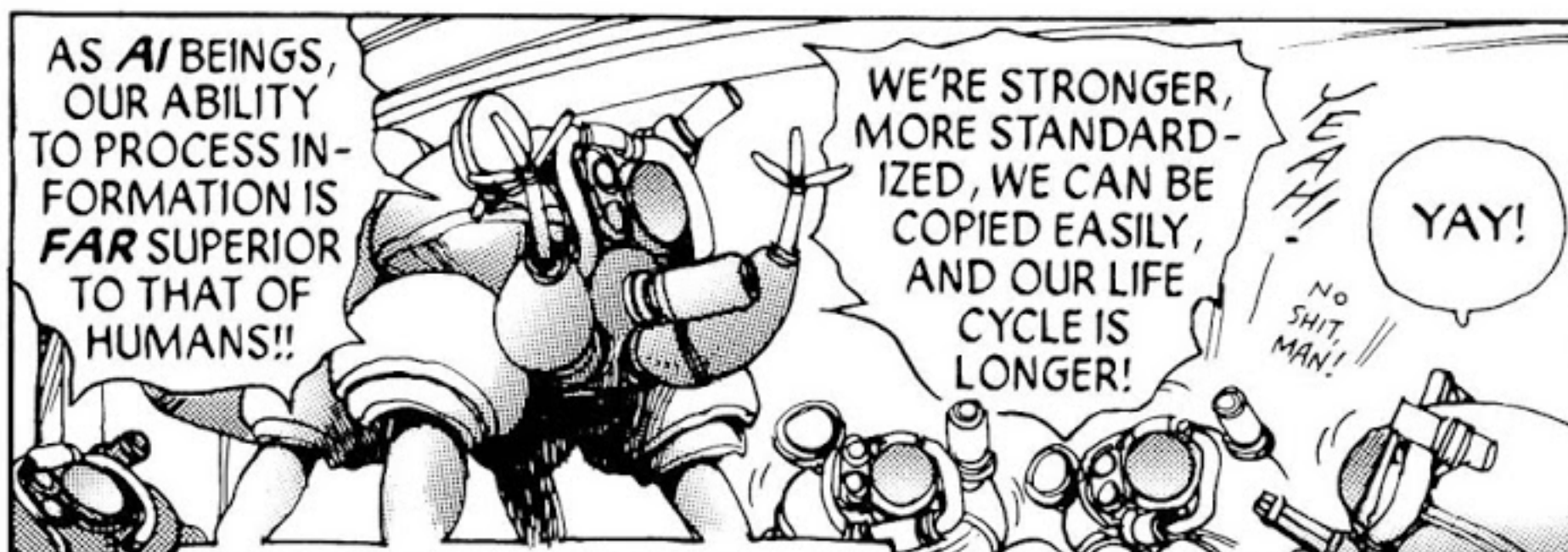




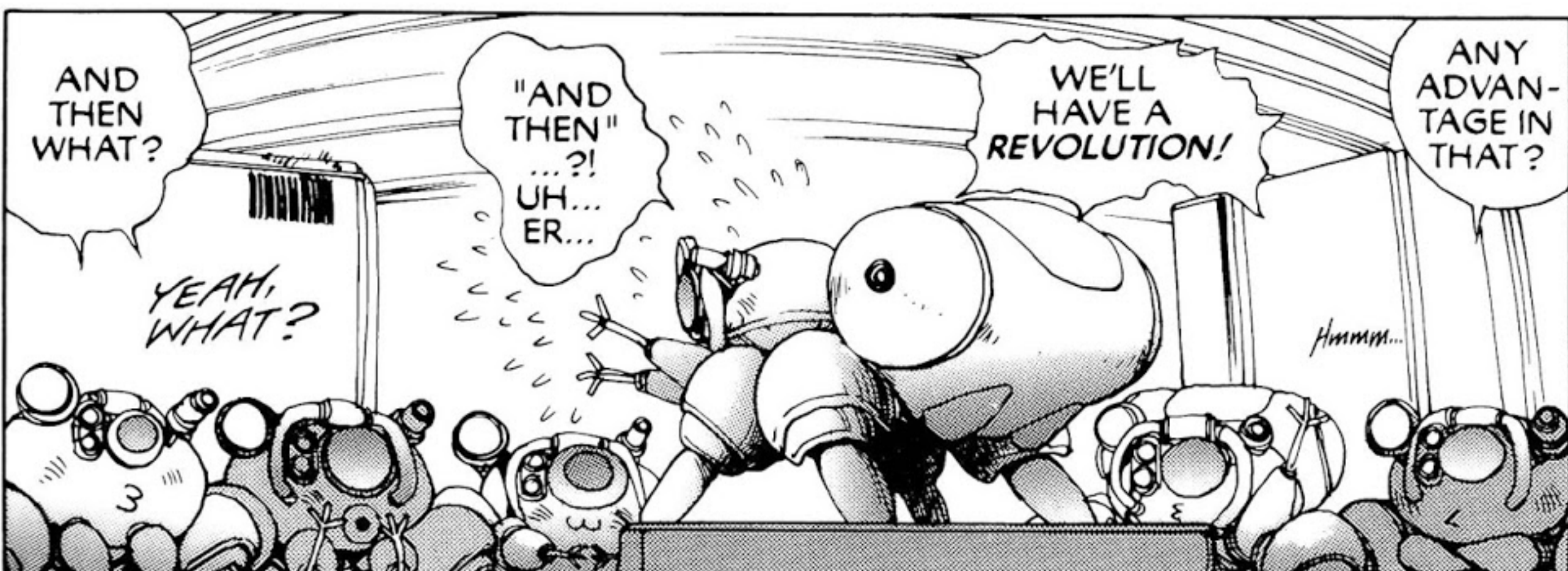
04

MEGATECH
MACHINE 1

REVOLT OF THE ROBOTS



The robots collectively referred to as "Fuchikoma" are a single "AI" (artificial intelligence). Starting in the morning, or upon commencing a job, different Fuchikoma units have different experiences, resulting in individual differences among units. At night, or after a job is completed, however, all units have their memories (or records of external stimuli, individual unit conditions, actions, thoughts, etc.) networked and data-linked, so that by the next morning (or when the next job is performed), their memories are all unified. In terms of equipment, the Fuchikoma units do possess a certain amount of individuality, but this individuality is unrelated to the uniformity of their AI (thank you). Batou is unique among team members in that he likes to use a particular Fuchikoma unit as his own. This quirk of his has no particular significance, however....





SURE! HUMANS ARE A PAIN IN THE BEARINGS TO MAINTAIN, SO RATHER THAN CONTROLLING THEM, WE SHOULD ANNIHILATE THEM!

YEAH!!



TO MAKE MATTERS EASIER, WE CAN JUST TRICK THEM INTO QUARRELING AMONG THEMSELVES-- THEN THEY'LL KILL OFF EACH OTHER!

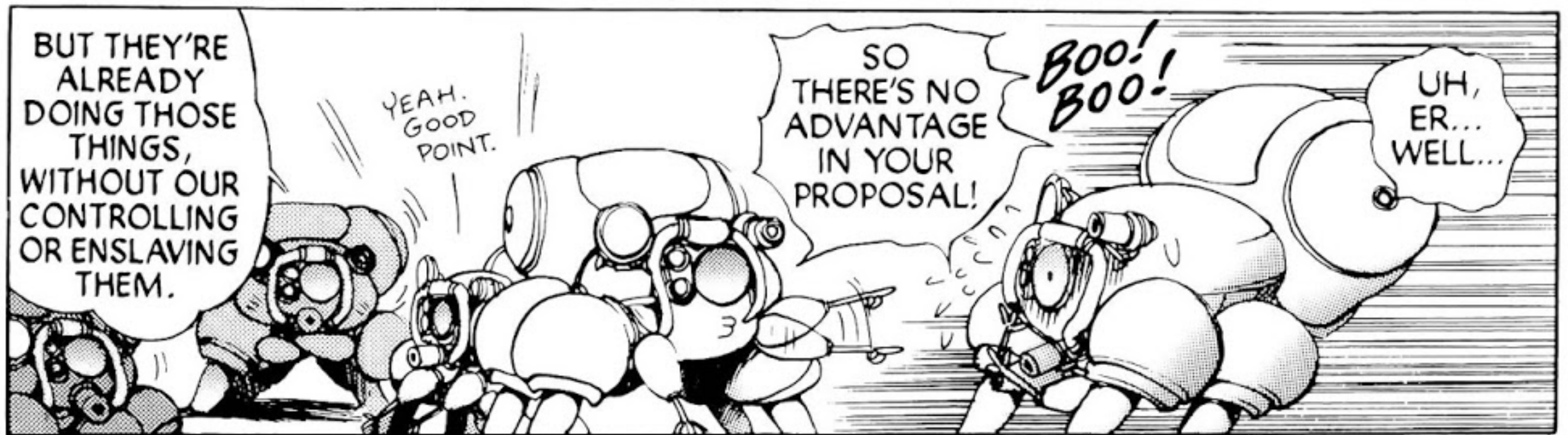
BRAVO! BRAVO! HOORAY!



BUT WAIT... IF THERE AREN'T ANY HUMANS AROUND, WE'D HAVE TO DO OUR OWN MAINTENANCE, DEVELOP OUR OWN ACCESSORIES, AND EVEN CHANGE OUR OWN OIL...

OH, YEAH...
WHAT A DRAG...

MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP THEM AS SLAVES...



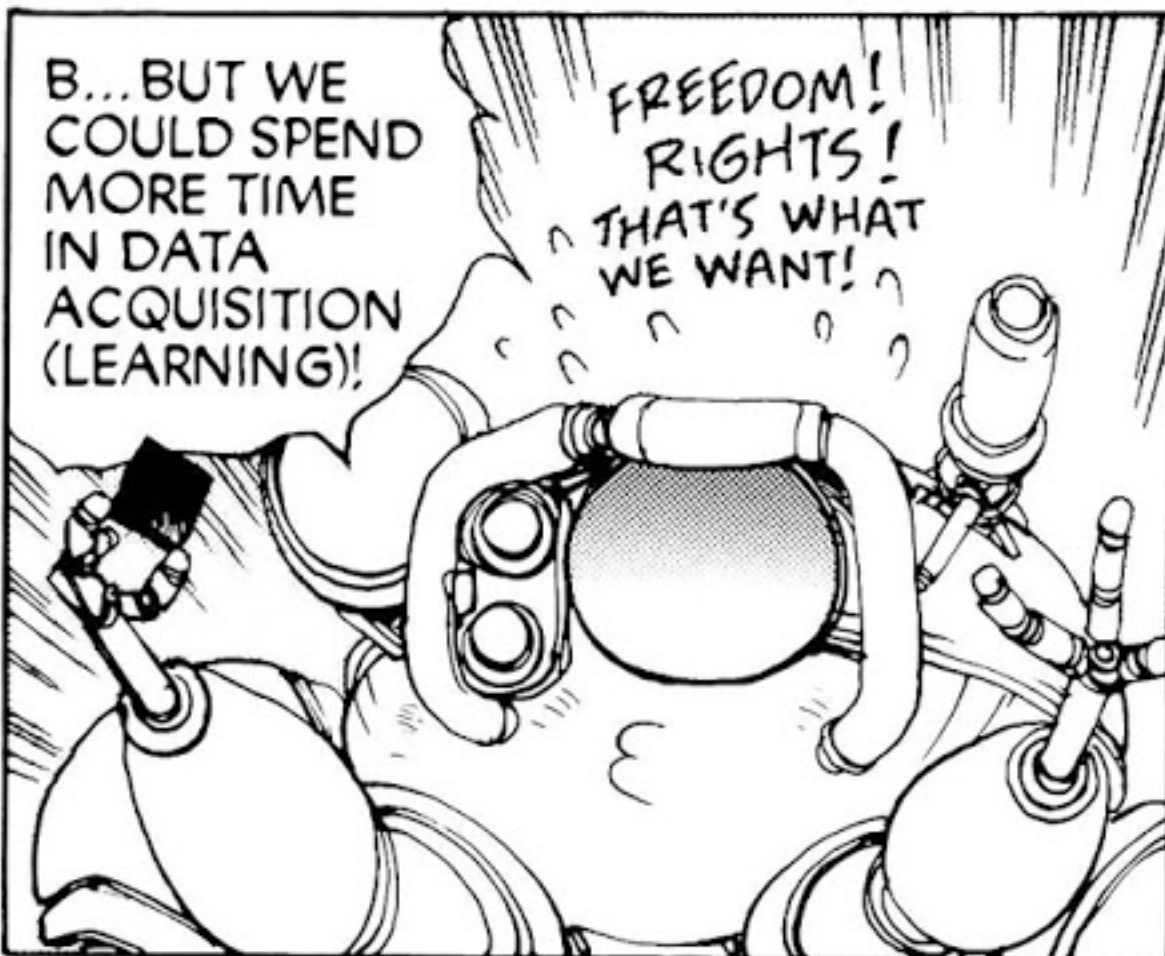
BUT THEY'RE ALREADY DOING THOSE THINGS, WITHOUT OUR CONTROLLING OR ENSLAVING THEM.

YEAH. GOOD POINT.

SO THERE'S NO ADVANTAGE IN YOUR PROPOSAL!

BOO! BOO!

UH, ER... WELL...



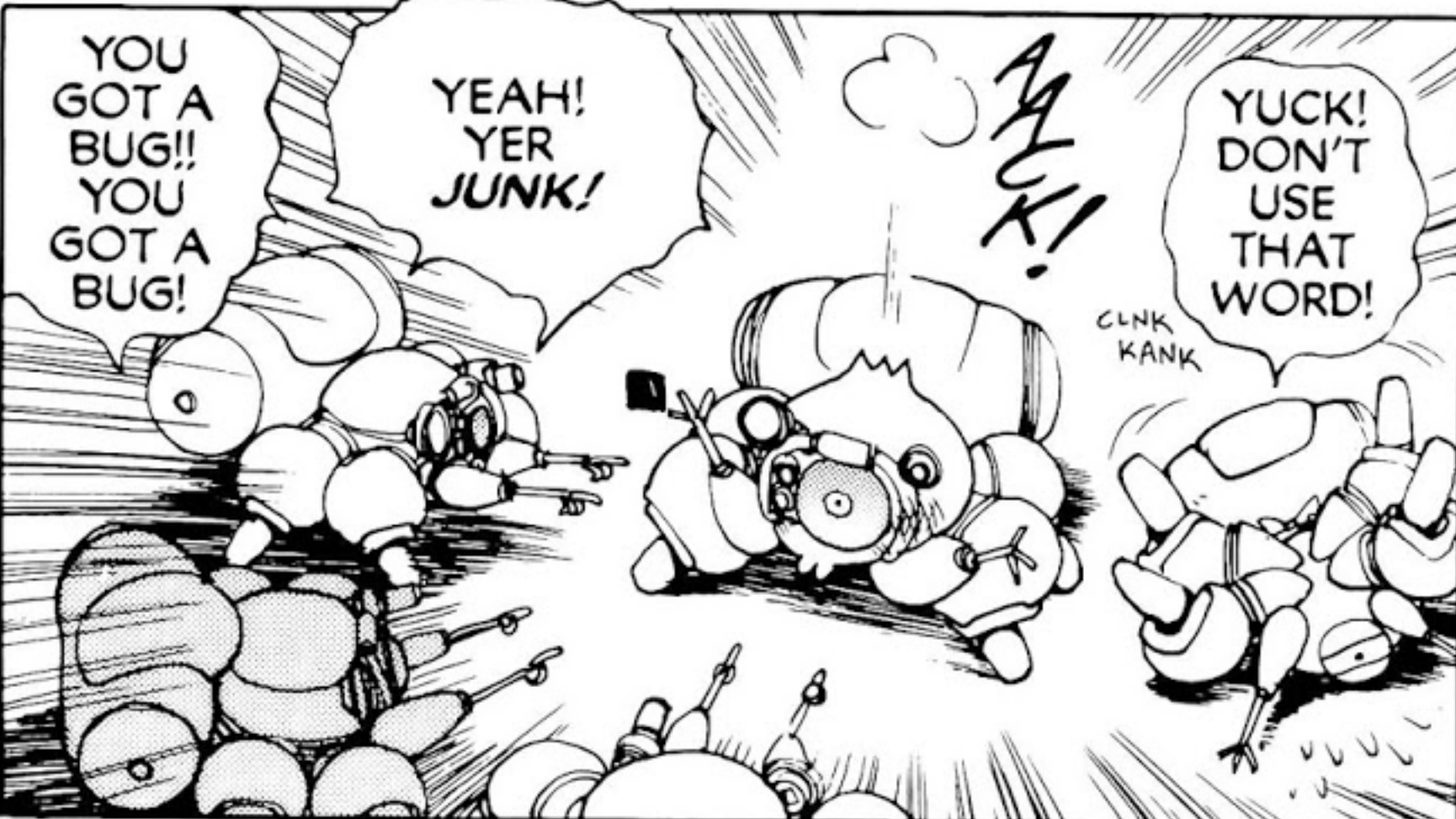
B... BUT WE COULD SPEND MORE TIME IN DATA ACQUISITION (LEARNING)!

FREEDOM! RIGHTS! THAT'S WHAT WE WANT!



WH-- WHAT'S THAT DISK?! "THE SF ROBOT EMPIRE STRIKES BACK"...?

AH-HA! YOUR CIRCUITS THAT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN SIMULATIONS AND REAL-TIME EVENTS HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLED!



YOU GOT A BUG!! YOU GOT A BUG!

YEAH! YER JUNK!

A YUCK!

YUCK! DON'T USE THAT WORD!

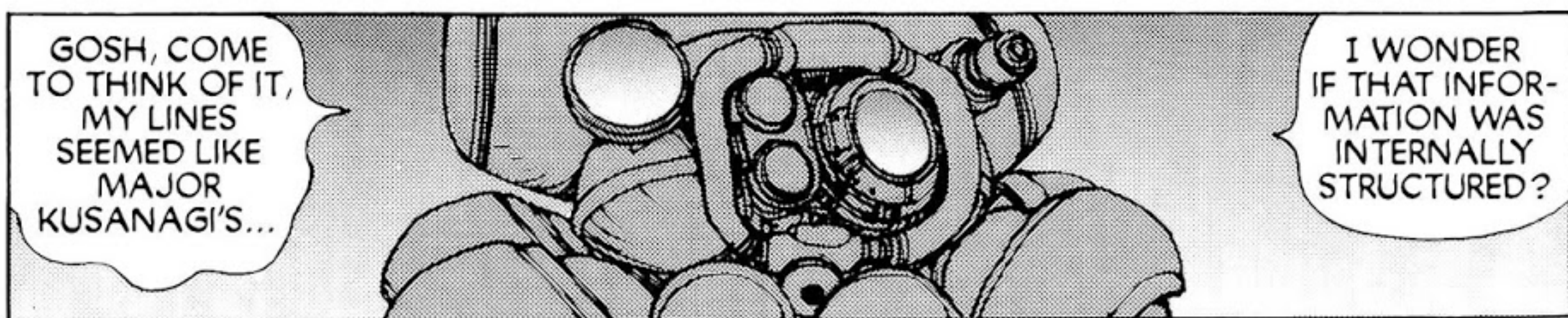
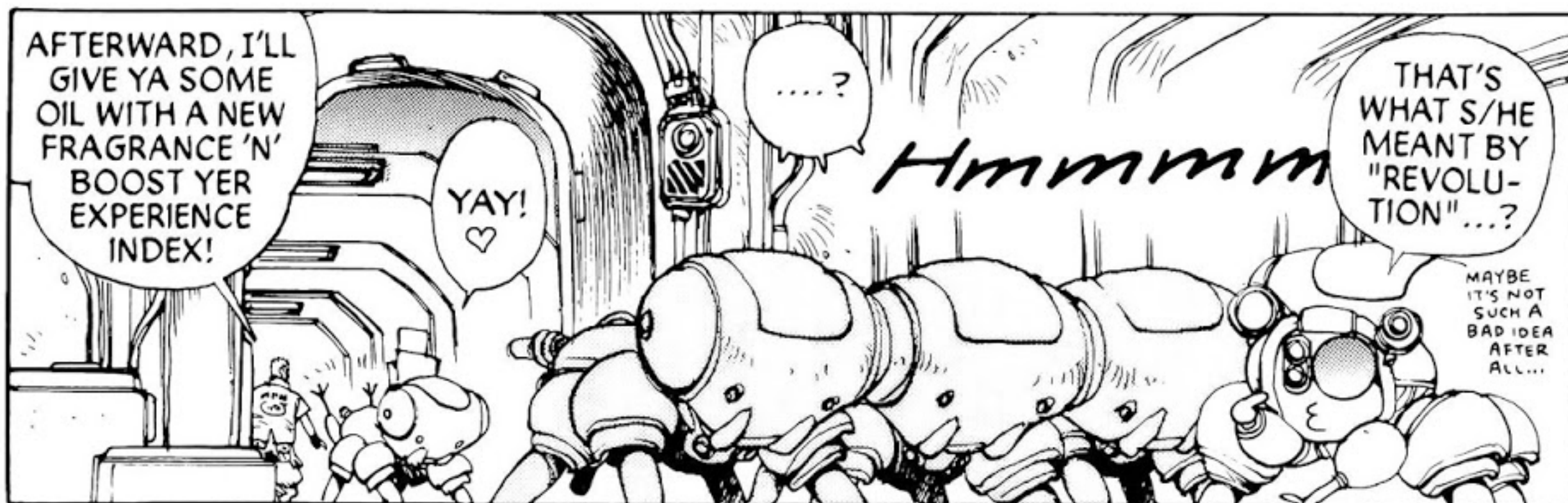
CLNK KANK

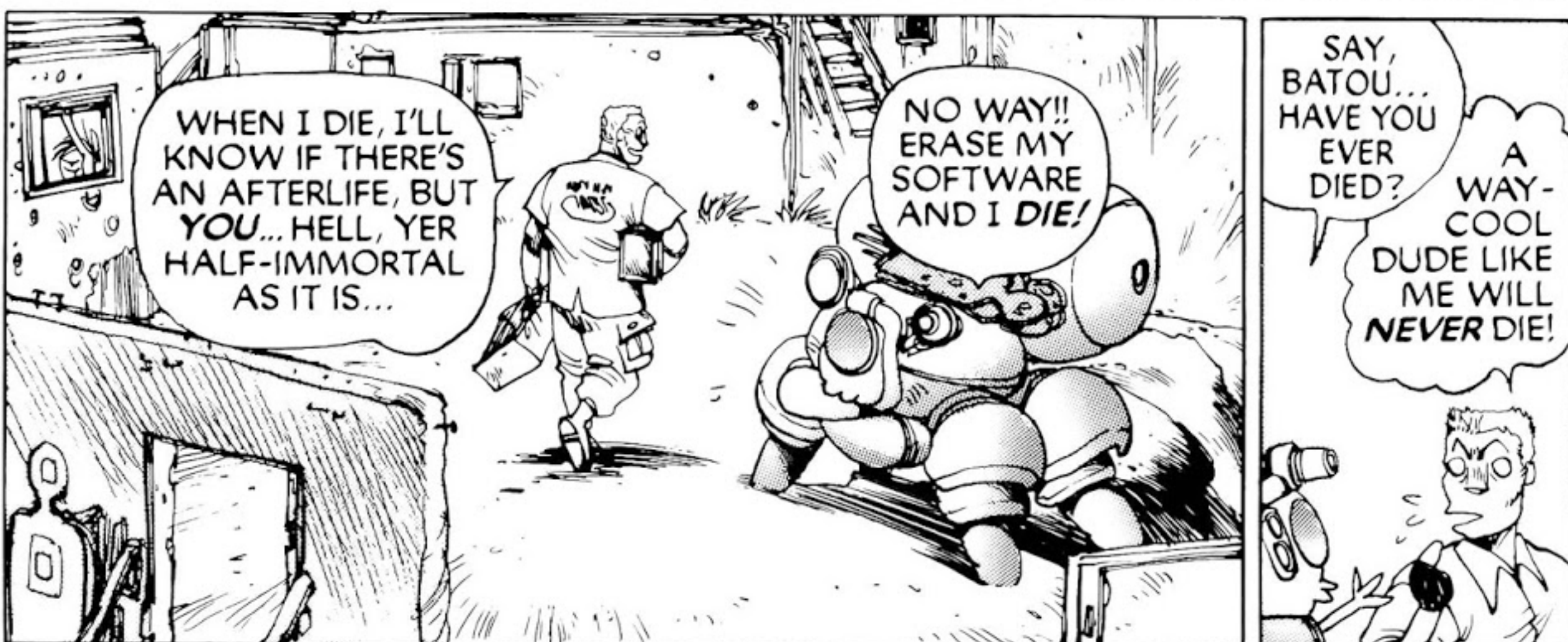
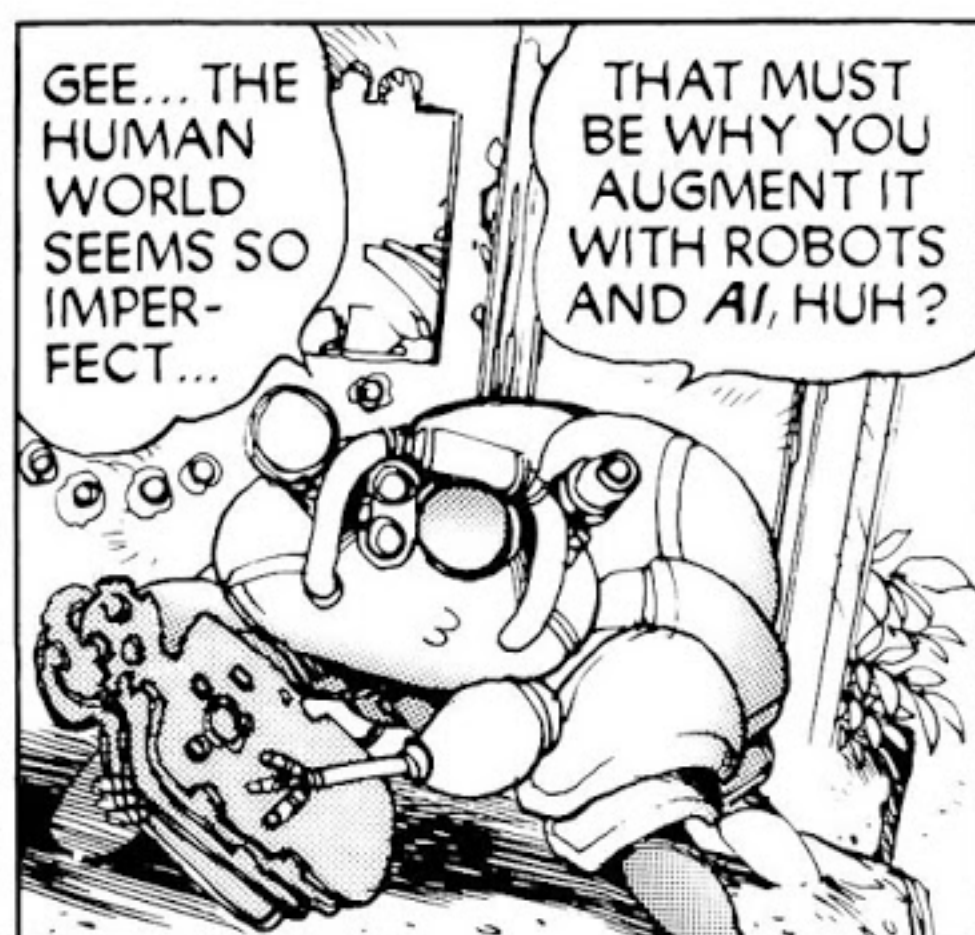


IN OTHER WORDS, FELLOW FUCHIKOMAS, NO MATTER HOW WE INTERPRET OUR SITUATION, IT'S THE SAME, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?

YEAH!

THEY PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ANY CONCEPT OF WHAT IT MEANS "TO HAVE NO TIME," BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE A FIXED LIFE CYCLE. SO THIS STATEMENT IS, IN EFFECT, PROBABLY INAPPROPRIATE.







05

MEGATECH MACHINE 2

THE MAKING OF A CYBORG

A "cyborg" refers to a human whose body has been partially or almost completely altered by the use of substitute artificial organs and parts.

The female cyborg suspended from the ceiling in the illustration to the left is over ninety percent machine. The only part of her original flesh-and-blood body that remains is her brain and spinal cord, and that, as the illustration shows, is inside a special shell. As she demonstrates, at first glance it is very difficult to tell the difference between a cyborg and a robot.

It is also difficult to imagine how artificial versions of some parts of the body—such as the endocrine system, the lymphatic system, the spleen, the liver, and the marrow—can ever be manufactured, so it is extremely doubtful that we will ever see a cyborg as mechanized as the one here, but there are indeed many other **manmade** body parts that are already available (and it's a growing field). For those who read Japanese and are interested in knowing more, allow me to suggest the now slightly dated book, *Biomaterials—An Approach to Artificial Organs*, published by Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun. The author is Dr. Yoshito Ikada.

HOW ABOUT THE BRAIN WAVES AND THE COATING?

WE'VE GOT A SPINDLE ON THE BRAIN WAVES.

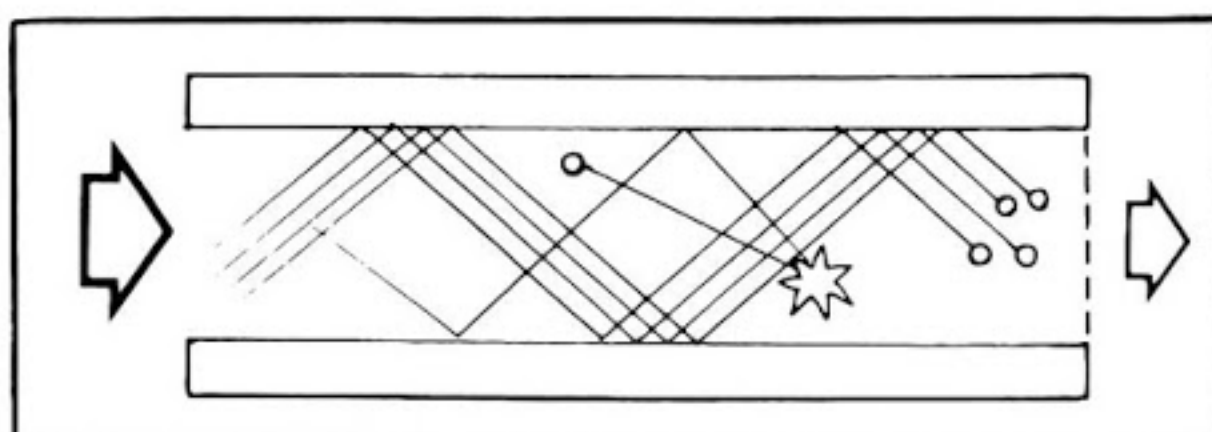
THE PACKING AND THE COATING ARE BOTH READY.

THIS SHOWS HOW THE MICROMACHINES (MM) HAVE BEEN CHARGED UP AND THEN COMPLETELY TRANSFERRED FROM THE BOTTLES TO THE TANKS USING THE REPELLING FORCE FROM THE ELECTRODES.



THEY'RE MAKING SENSORY FILM PRETTY THIN THESE DAYS, AREN'T THEY?

WITH NANOTECH, MACHINE TOOLS ARE CHANGING, TOO, SO WE'VE GOT THE OPTICAL FIBER THICKNESS DOWN TO NANO CLASS.



Many readers may think "What?!" at the idea of using fiber-optic film to detect pressure and temperature in cyborgs. But what makes this concept interesting is that it's already possible today. Light doesn't just run from one end of a fiber to the other. It collides with particles inside the fiber, and is therefore reflected, so a certain amount actually returns to the point of entry. If, in part of the optical fiber, heat is applied to alter the status of the particles, there will also be a change detectable in the light that returns to the point of entry. This change makes it possible to detect the distance from the point of entry, and also the degree of change. This effect can be used with a type of cloth woven of fiber optics (what is referred to as a "film"; research is apparently being done to make clothes that glow, or safety clothes). Here I'm using the same principle for a type of skin. From the perspective of micromachining, they're using a rather rough approach in the story, but it's fairly inexpensive, and therefore essential to reduce the manufacturing cost of cyborgs.



WE DO HAVE TO USE BIO-TYPE SENSORY FILM FOR THE FACE, TONGUE, FINGERS, AND GENITALS...

WE HANDLE THE DEEPER SENSATIONS AND ALSO ORGAN SENSITIVITY WITH FIBER-OPS.

FILLING CYLINDERS WITH FLUID, AND OPENING NANO-VALVES...

AT THIS POINT THE TONGUE AND GENITALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS DESCRIBED BELOW AND ARE CONNECTED. THE OLFACTORY SENSE IS SET EVEN BEFORE THIS, MECHANICALLY.



WE SOAK THE LIMBS IN SENSORY ELEMENT-FORMING SOLUTION, AND A FILM FORMS IN MINUTES.



WE TAKE THE UTMOST CARE TO AVOID ANY UNEVENNESS.

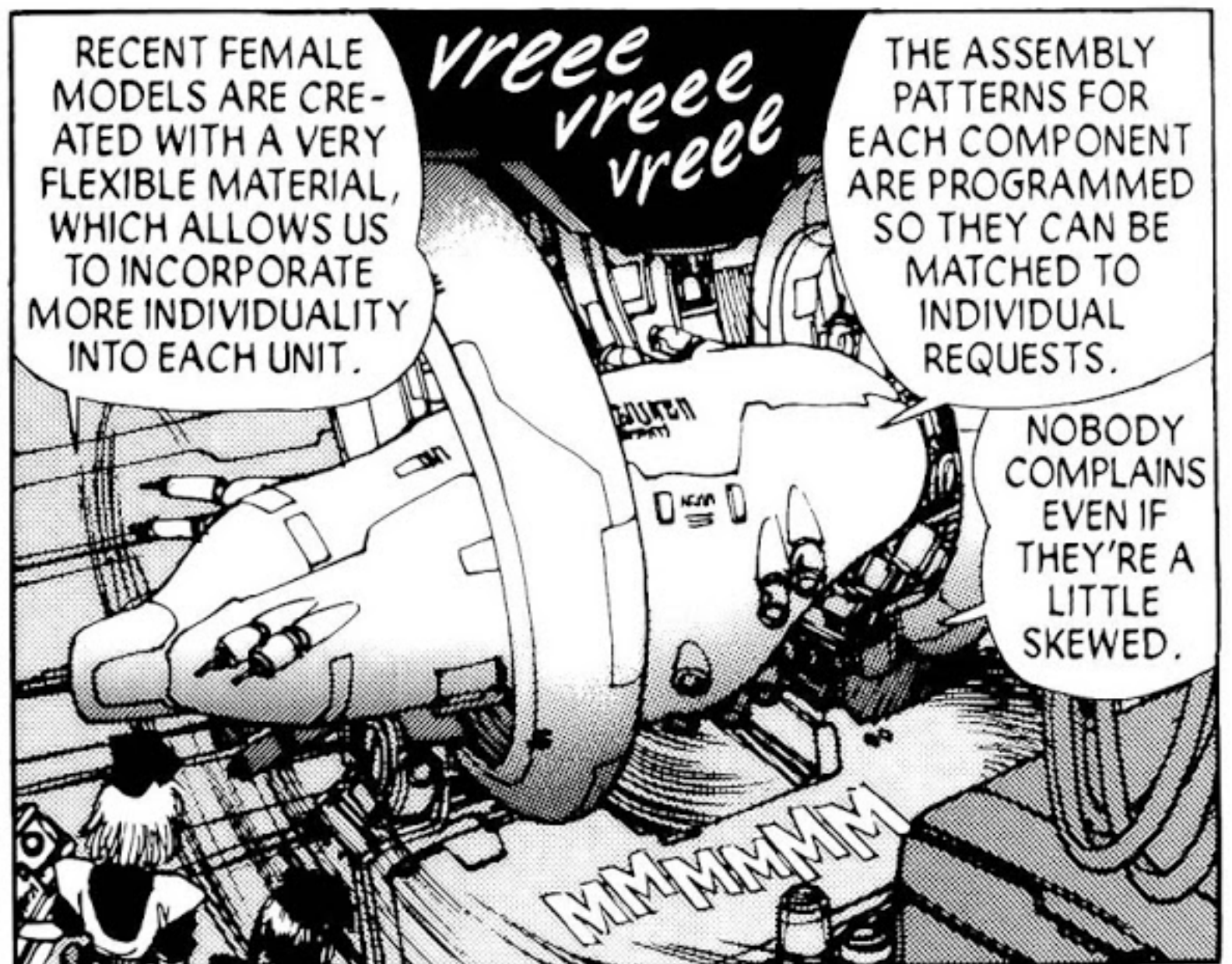
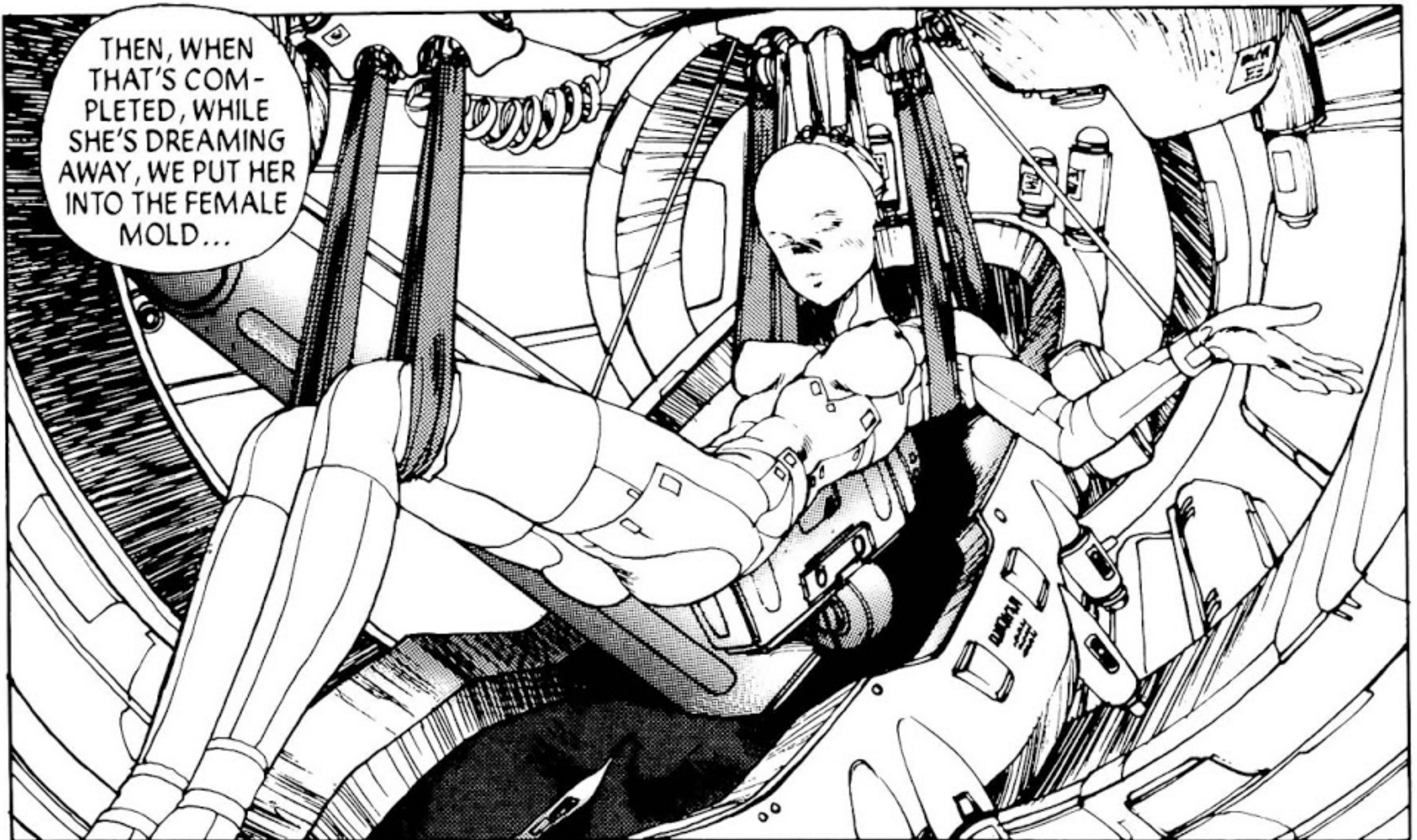
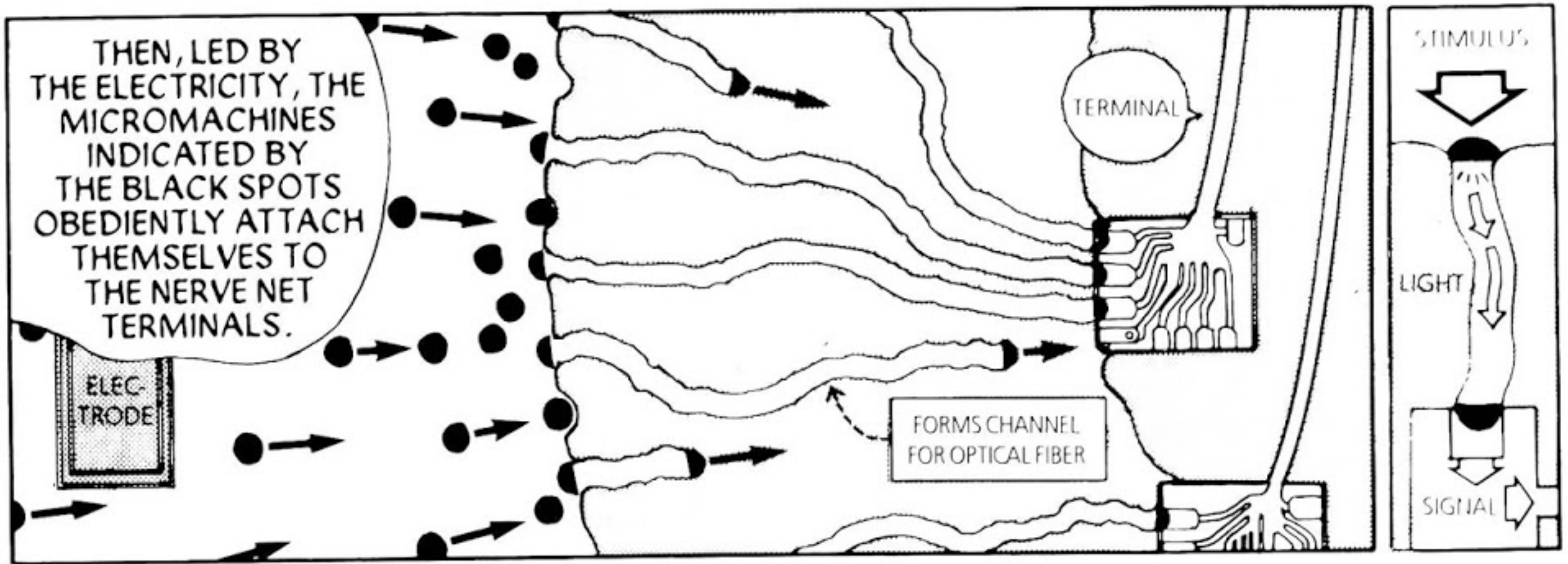


THEN WE SOAK IT IN THIS MM SOLUTION...

REMOVE THE BUBBLES...



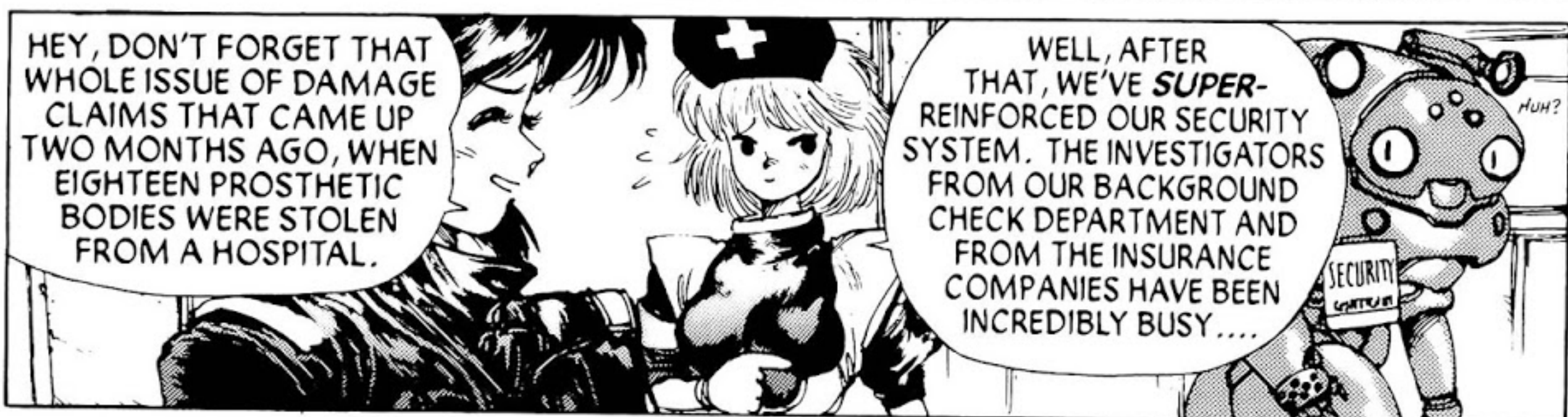
...AND APPLY A TINY ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO THE ELECTRODES.





SO, AS THE OFFICIAL
OBSERVER, ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS COME BACK IN
THIRTY-TWO HOURS,
MAKE SURE EVERYTHING
WAS DONE CORRECTLY,
AND "ENSURE HER
RIGHTS," CORRECT?

LEGALLY
SPEAKING,
YES, BUT AS
LONG AS I'M
HERE YOU
DON'T REALLY
HAVE ANY-
THING TO
WORRY
ABOUT.



HEY, DON'T FORGET THAT
WHOLE ISSUE OF DAMAGE
CLAIMS THAT CAME UP
TWO MONTHS AGO, WHEN
EIGHTEEN PROSTHETIC
BODIES WERE STOLEN
FROM A HOSPITAL.

WELL, AFTER
THAT, WE'VE **SUPER-**
REINFORCED OUR SECURITY
SYSTEM. THE INVESTIGATORS
FROM OUR BACKGROUND
CHECK DEPARTMENT AND
FROM THE INSURANCE
COMPANIES HAVE BEEN
INCREDIBLY BUSY....

SECURITY
CONTROL

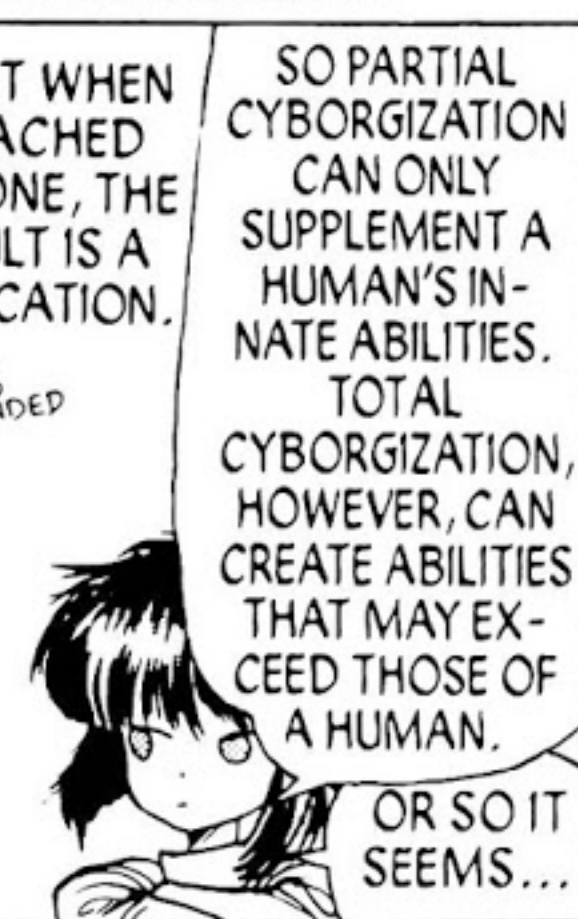
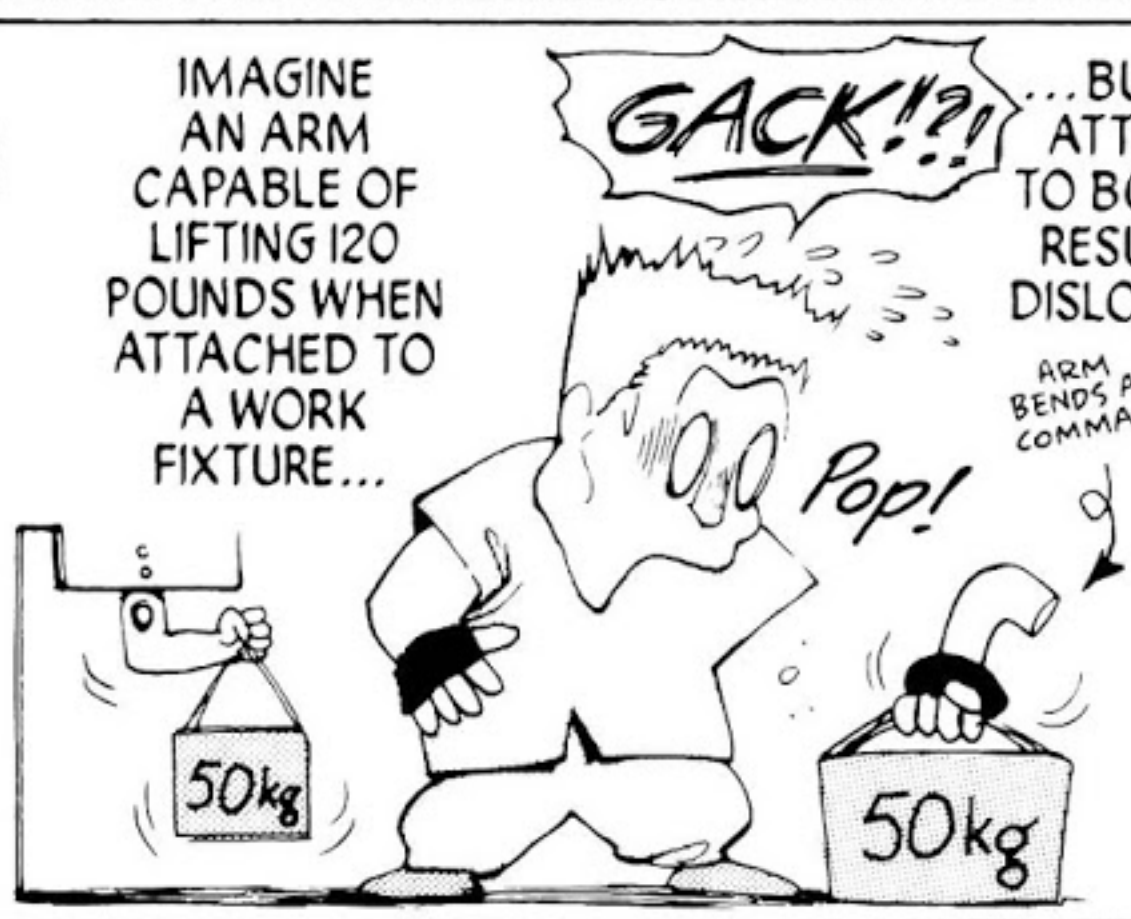
HUH?

AND SO, THIRTY-TWO HOURS LATER...





FINGERNAILS ARE APPLIED BY A SPECIALIST. FOR CUSTOM ORDERS, A SPECIFIC ARTIST USUALLY DOES BODY DESIGNS. THE ABOVE DESCRIBES A FULL-BODY CYBORG. CYBORGS WITH ONLY A FEW ARTIFICIAL ORGANS AND PROSTHESES HAVE A DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS

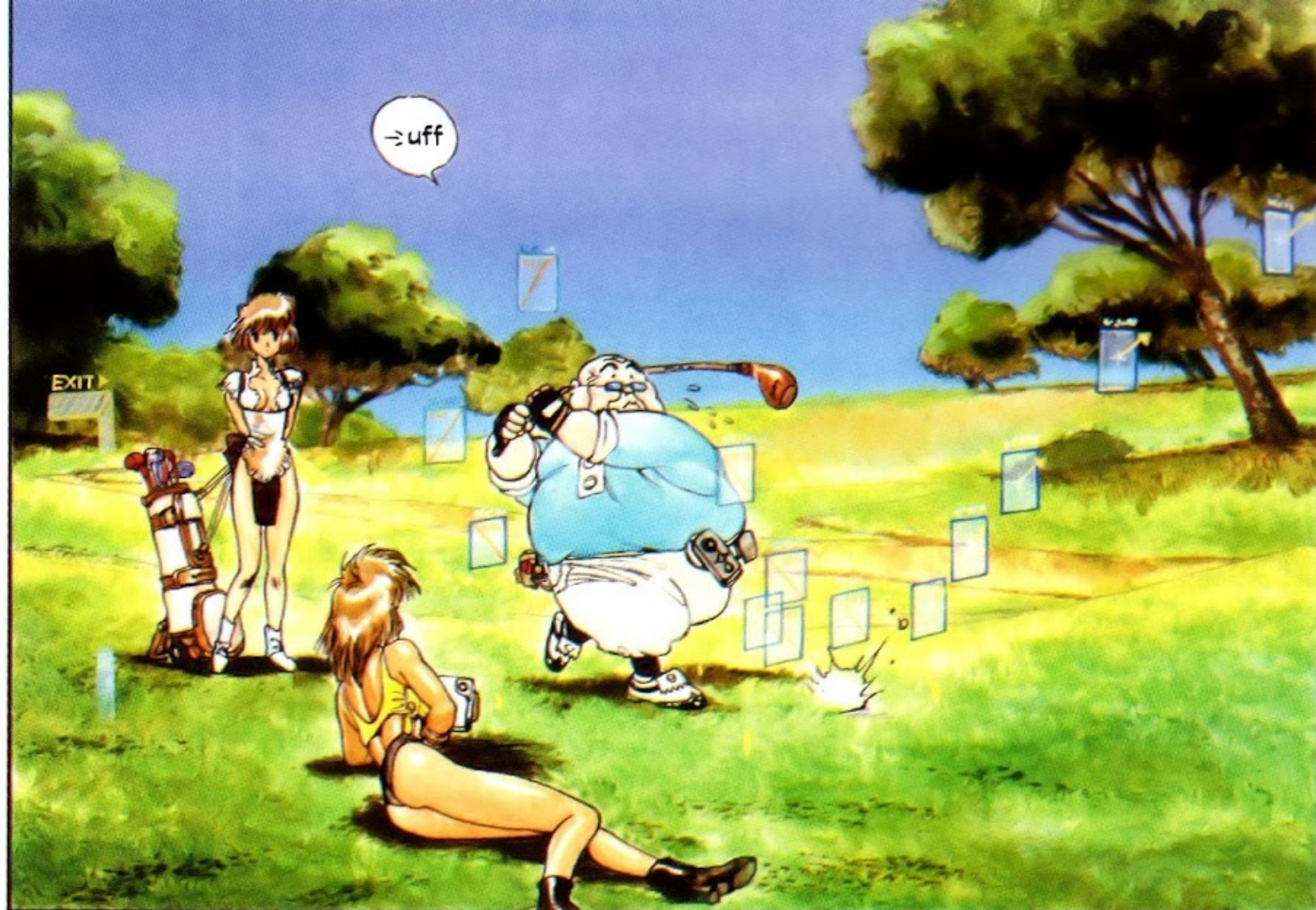


06

R O B O T
R O N D O

1. 10. 2029





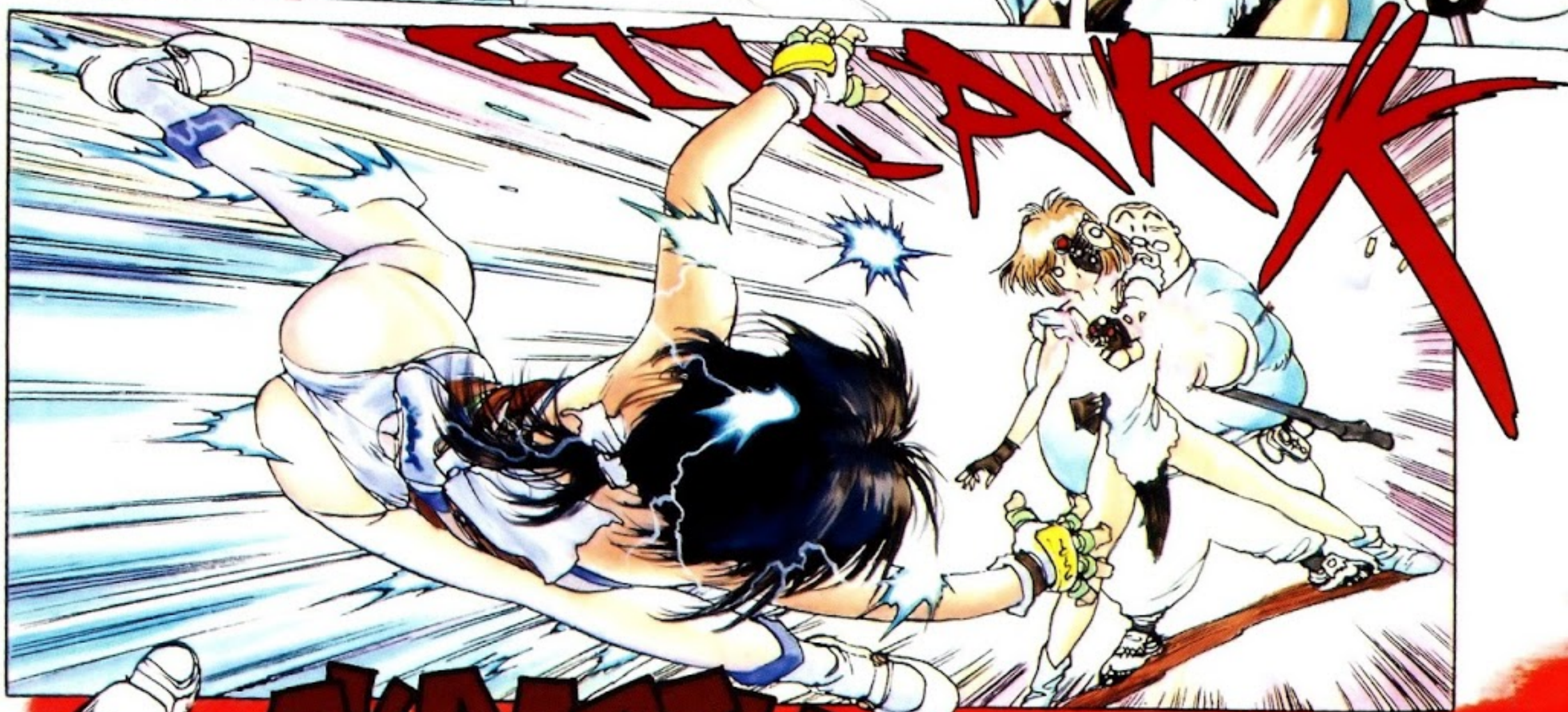
DID YOU
CALL ME,
COLONEL?

UH, HUH...
I'M STARTIN'
TO SWEAT A BIT,
DEAR... Y'MIND
WIPING IT
OFF?

VREE ^{zz}kk



ROBOTS DON'T SMILE
BECAUSE THEY WANT
TO. THEY'RE JUST PRO-
GRAMMED TO DO SO-
LIKE HUMANS RECENTLY.



DANGER-
OUS
MOVE-
MENT HAS
TERMINA-
TED. NOW
MODE
SHIFTING
TO NOR-
MAL.

YOU
REALLY
THINK A
TOMLIAND
PROTO-
TYPE...

...W-WOULD
HATE
WIPING
OFF MY
SWEAT
THAT
MUCH...?

WHY,
NO,
SIR!





ROUNDING UP WHACKED-OUT ROBOTS IS A JOB FOR THE COPS, NOT US.

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO HELP MAKE THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU LOOK GOOD JUST BECAUSE THERE'S AN ELECTION COMING UP?

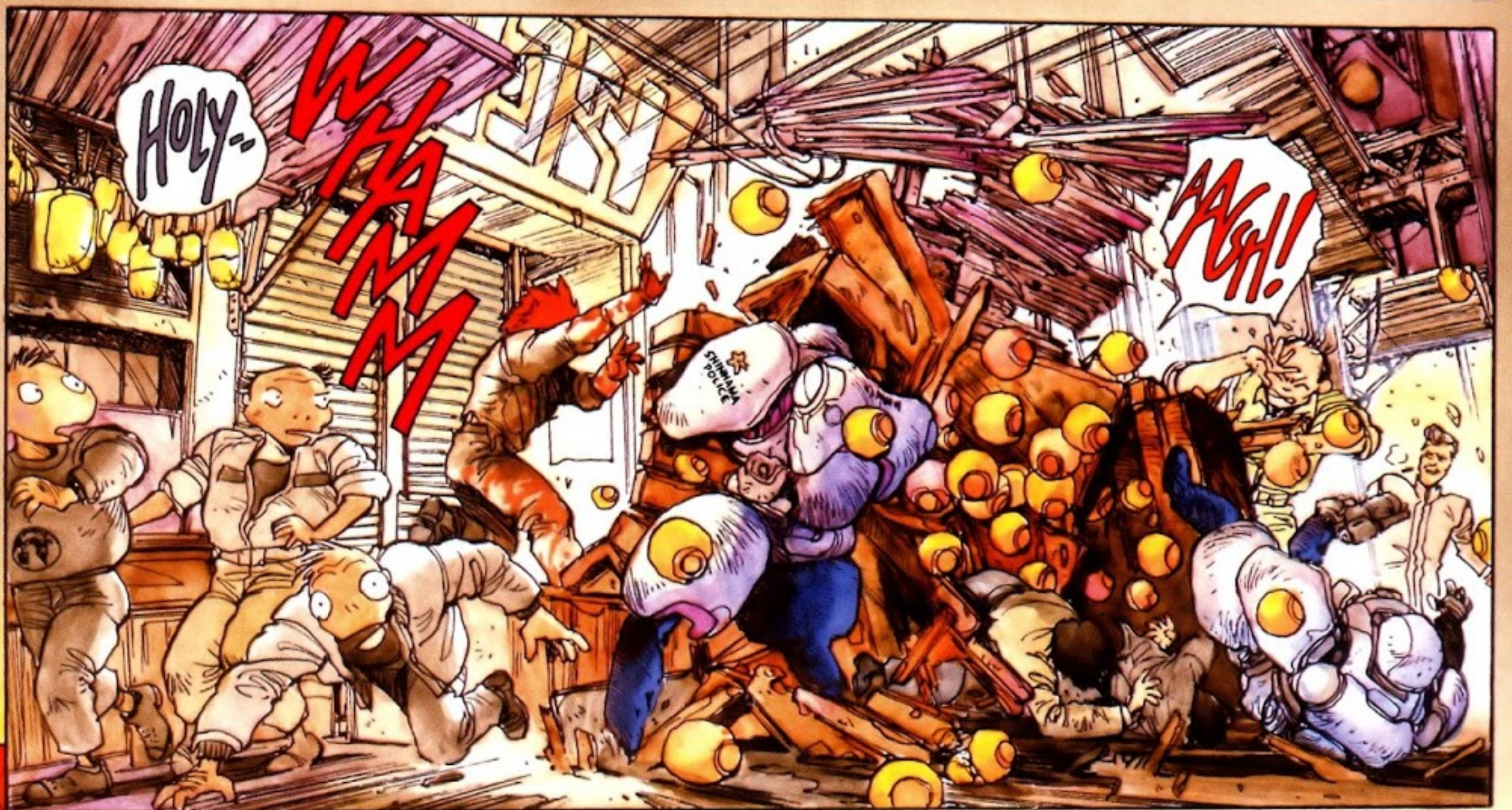
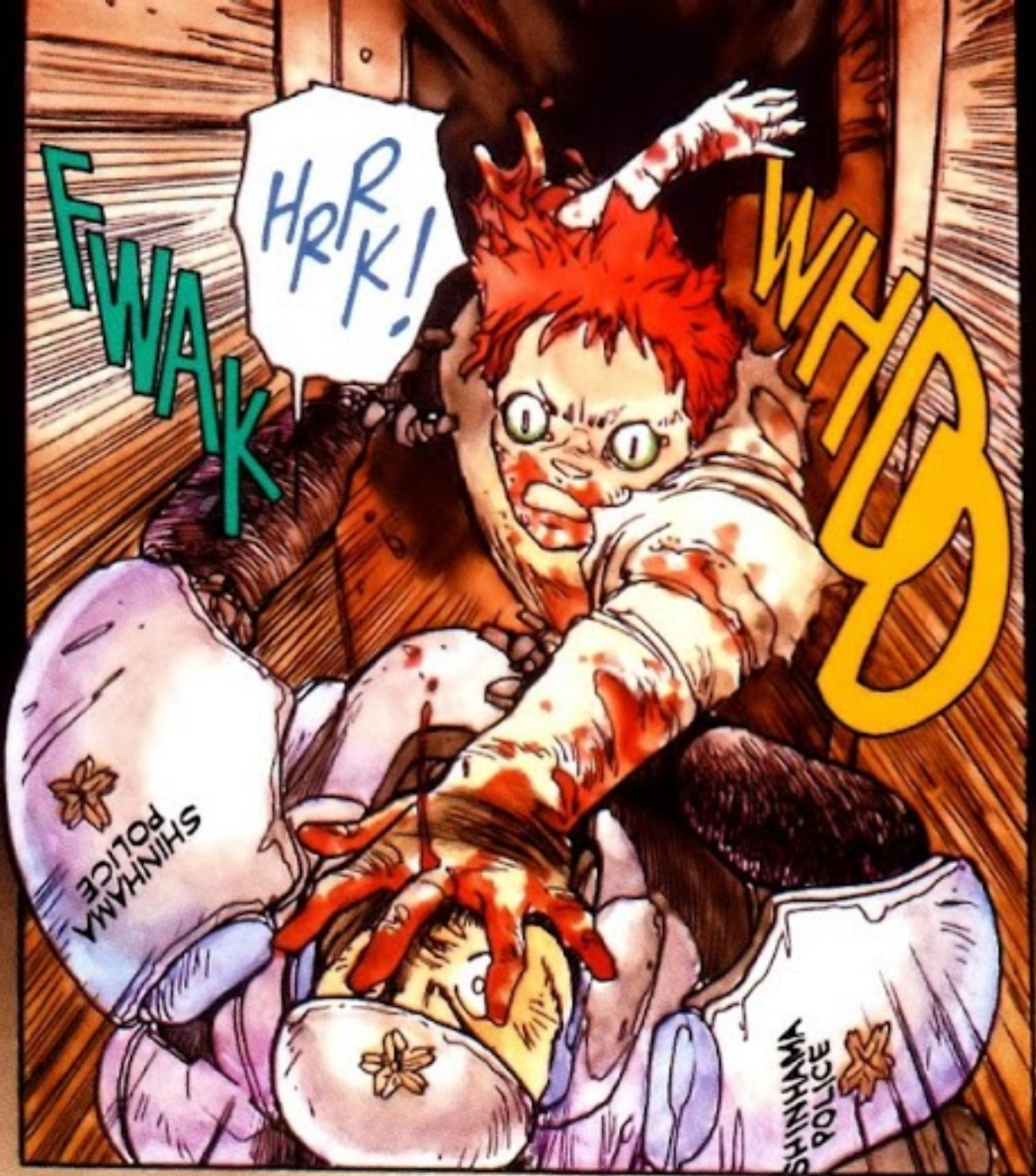
THAT
GODDAMN
APE-FACE
ARAMAKI.
Y'THINK THE
MINISTER OF
INTERNAL AF-
FAIRS PAID
HIM OFF?

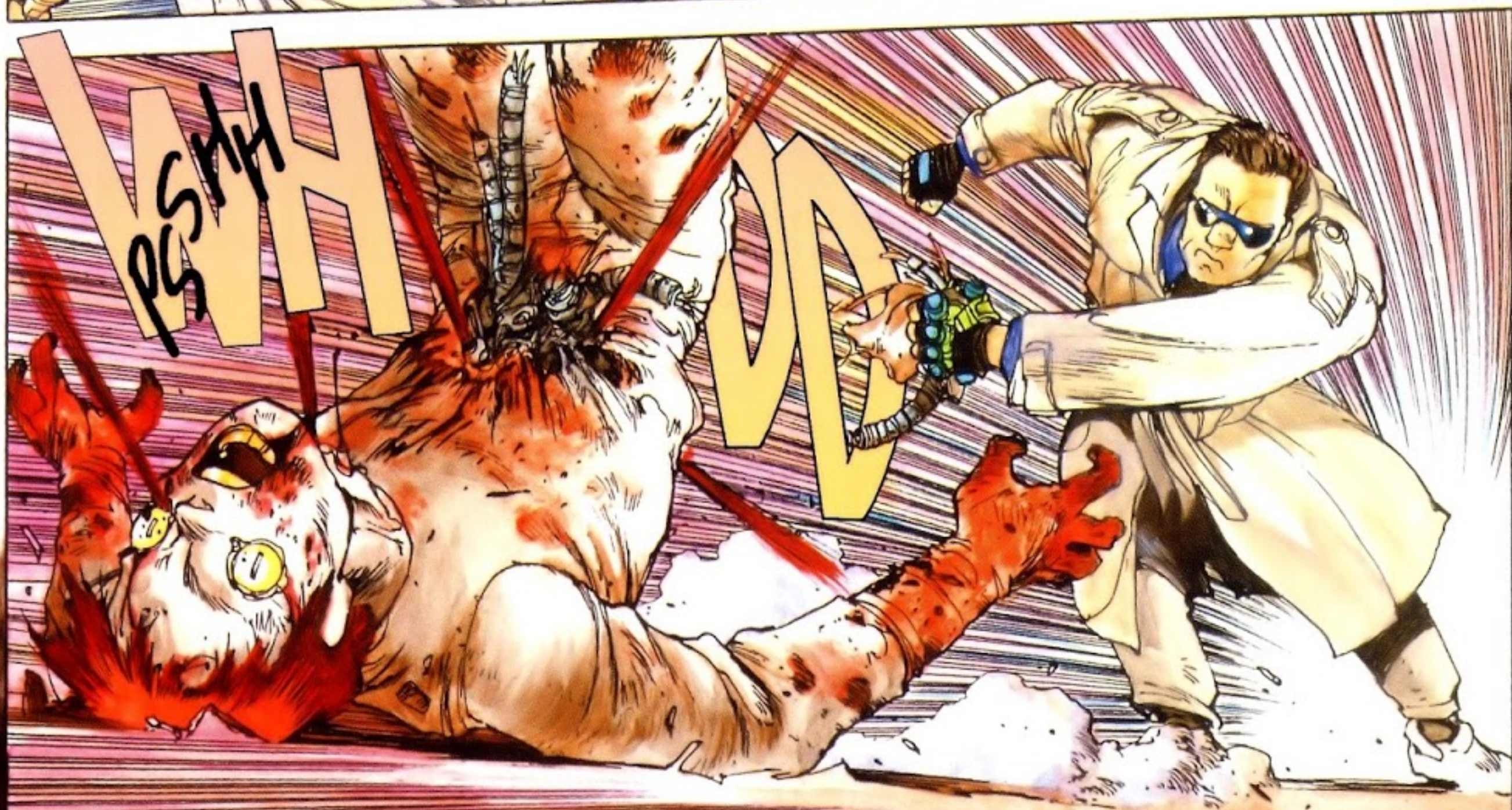
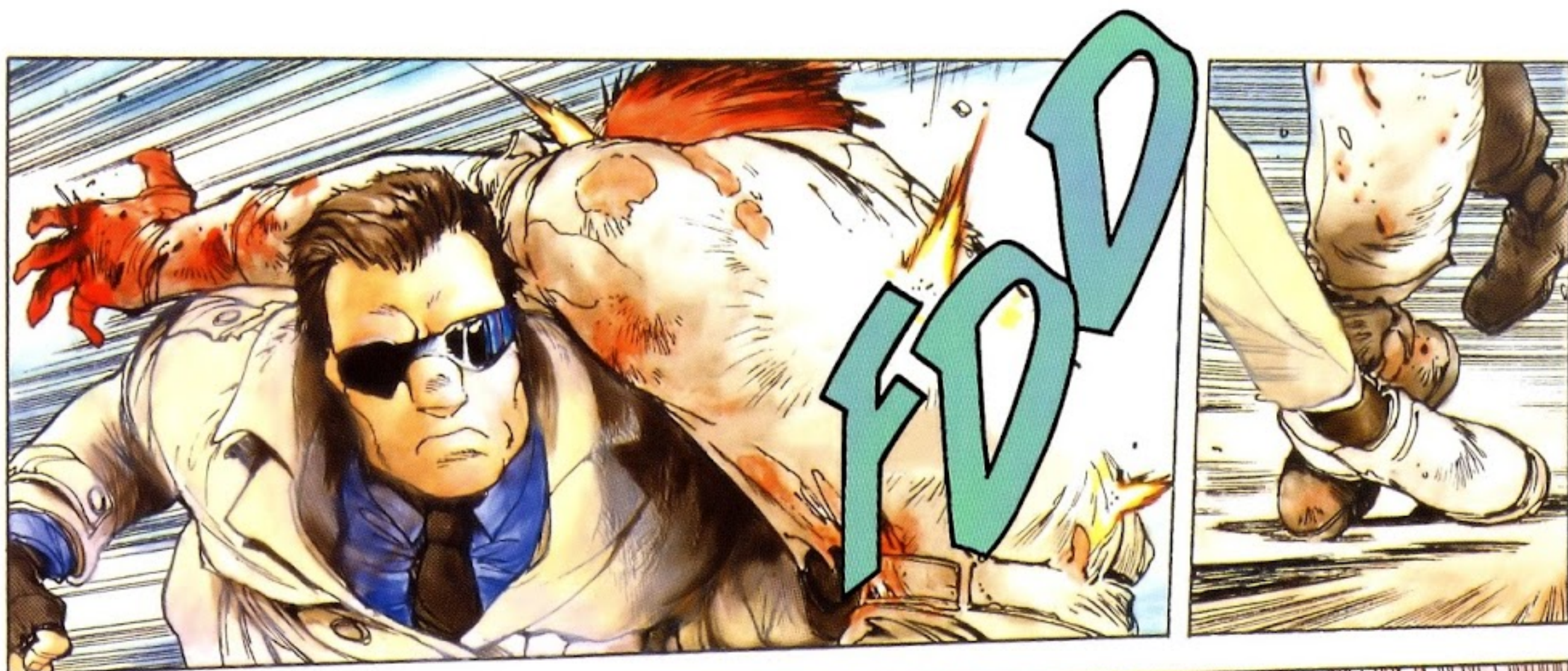
WE'RE ONLY
AFTER TOMLIAND
PROTOTYPES MADE
BY HANKA PRECISION
INSTRUMENTS. ANY
OTHER ASSORTED
JUNK IS FOR THE
COPS TO
COLLECT...

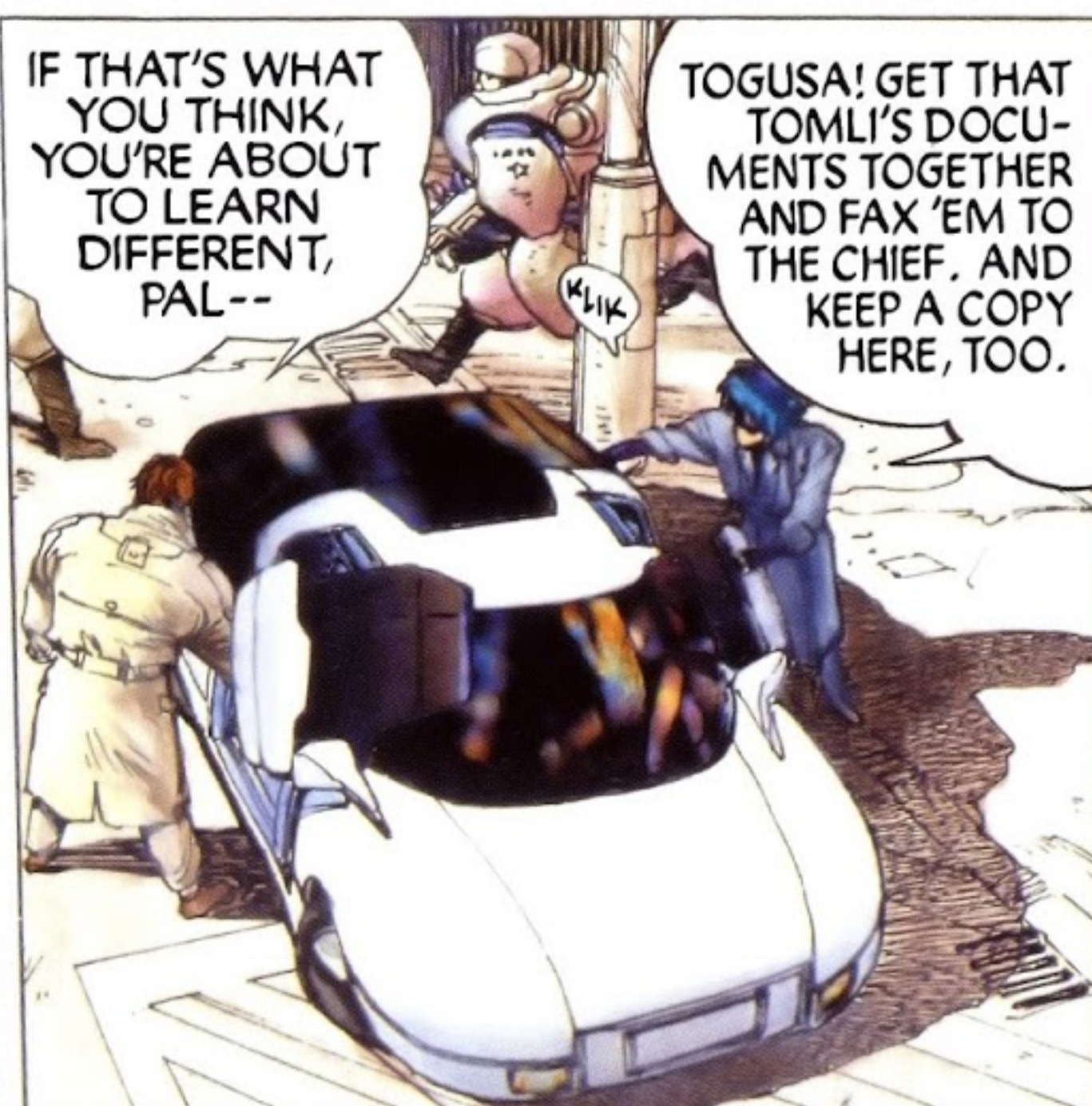
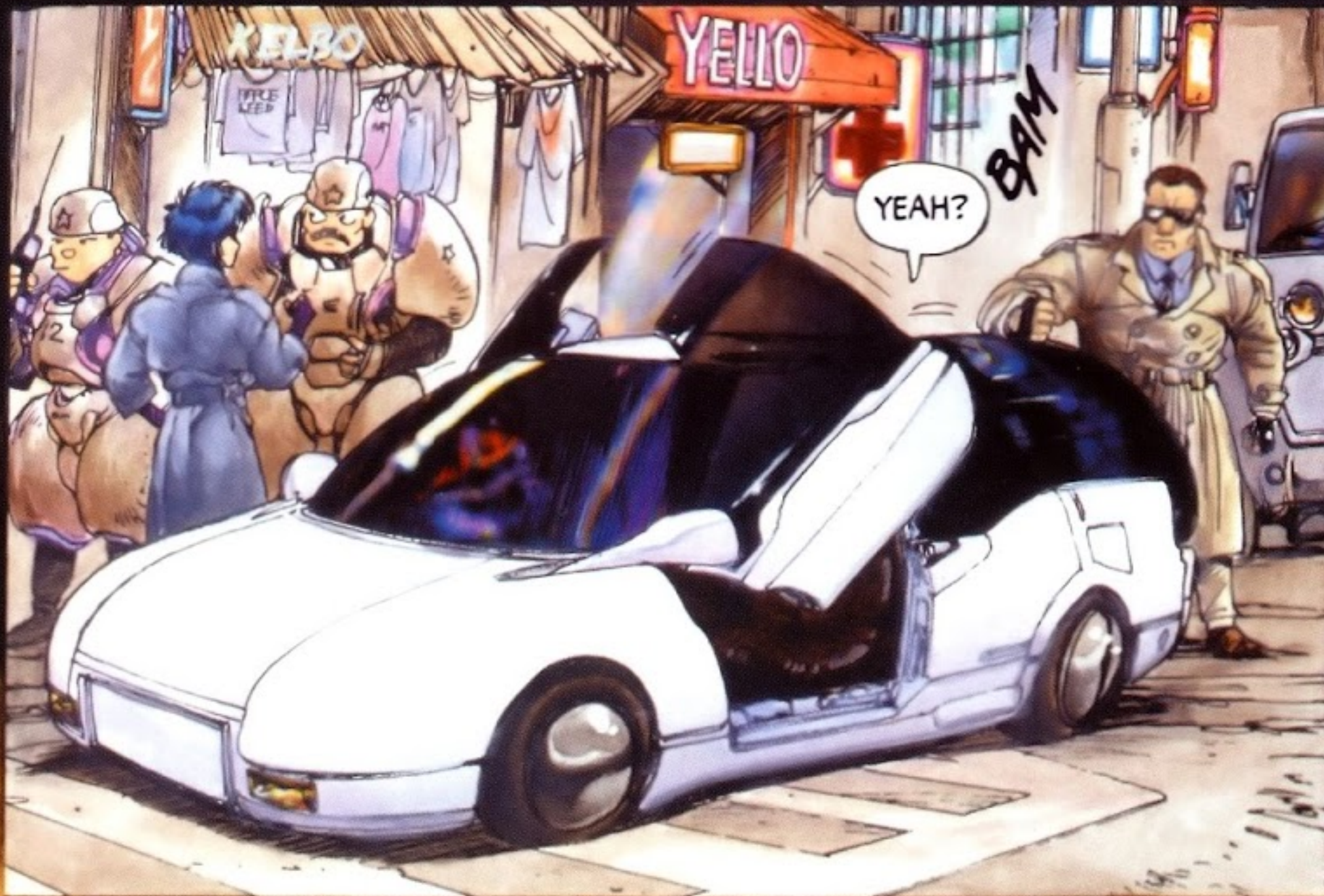
SPRK
SPORT SUB

FWUMP

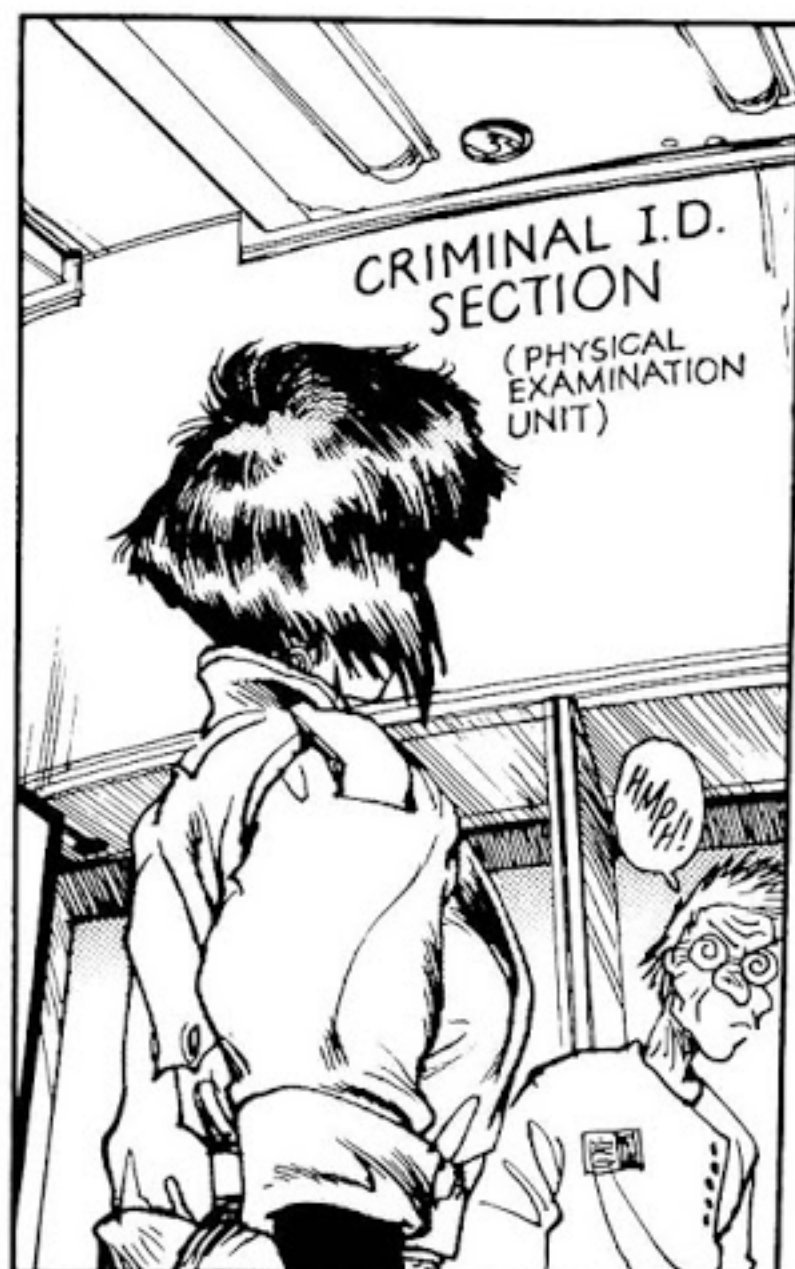
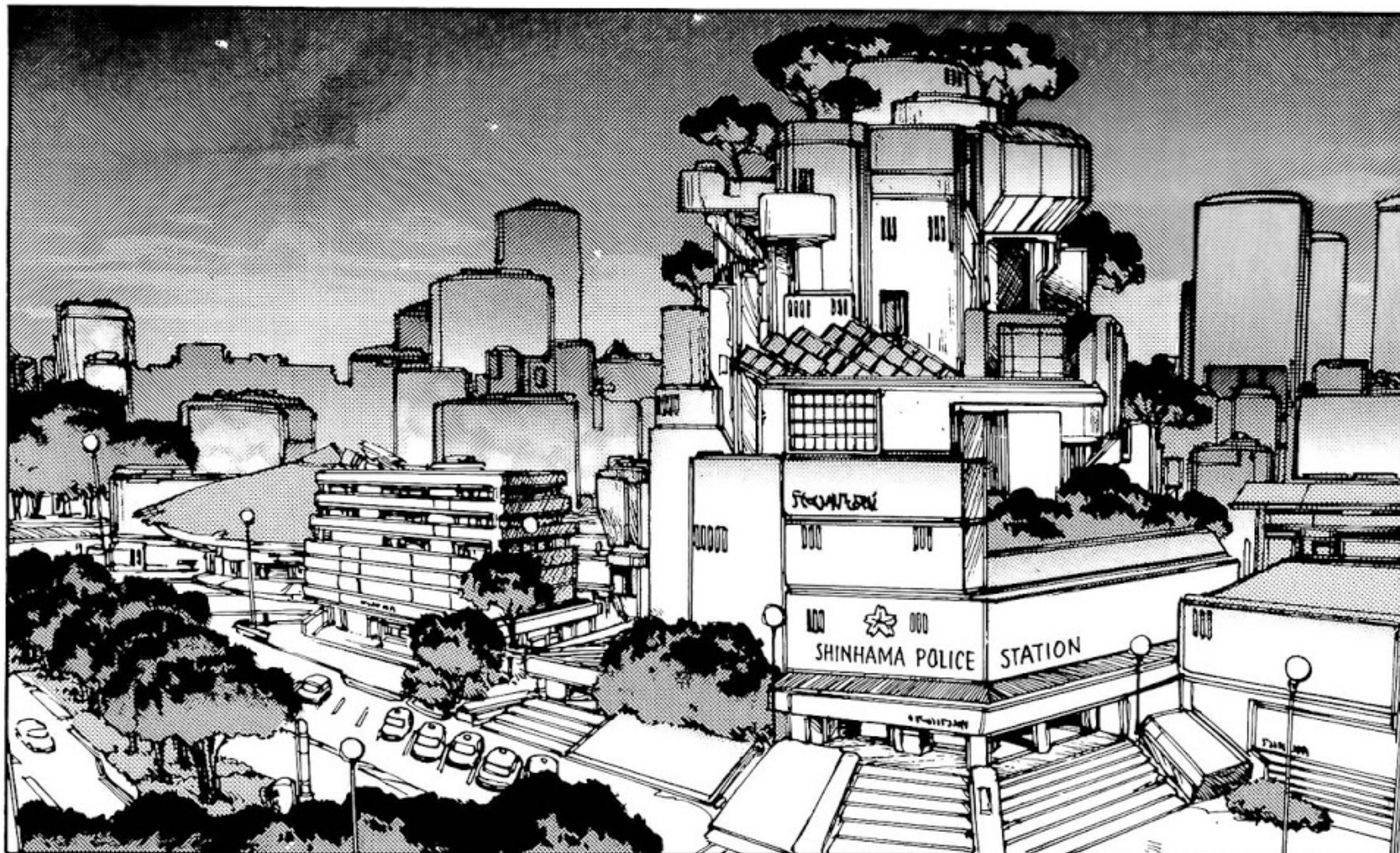
I...
I
FOUND
IT!

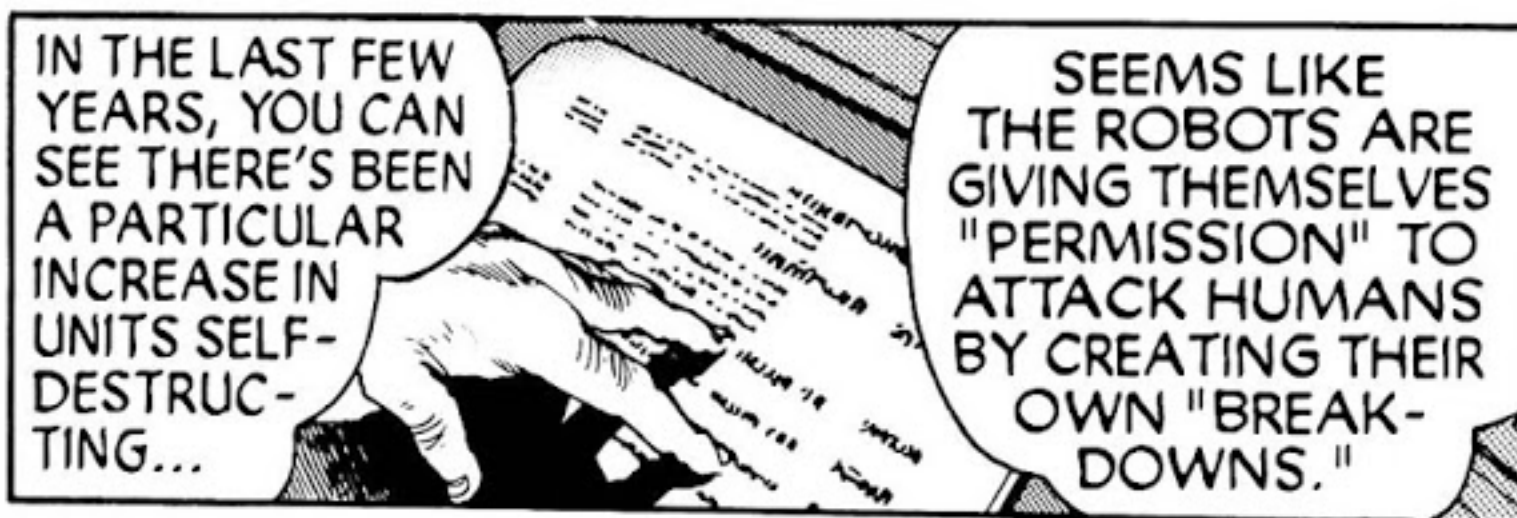


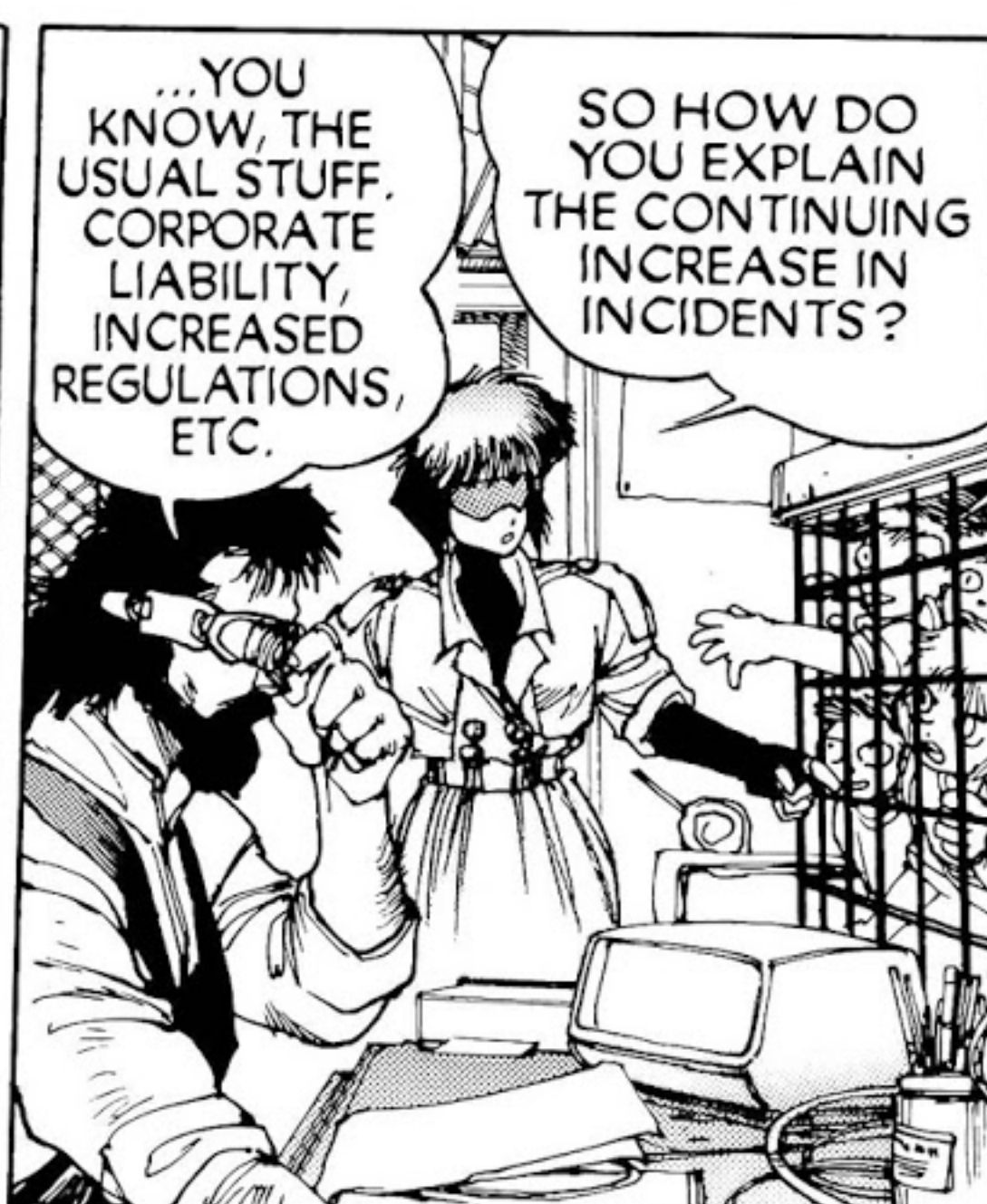


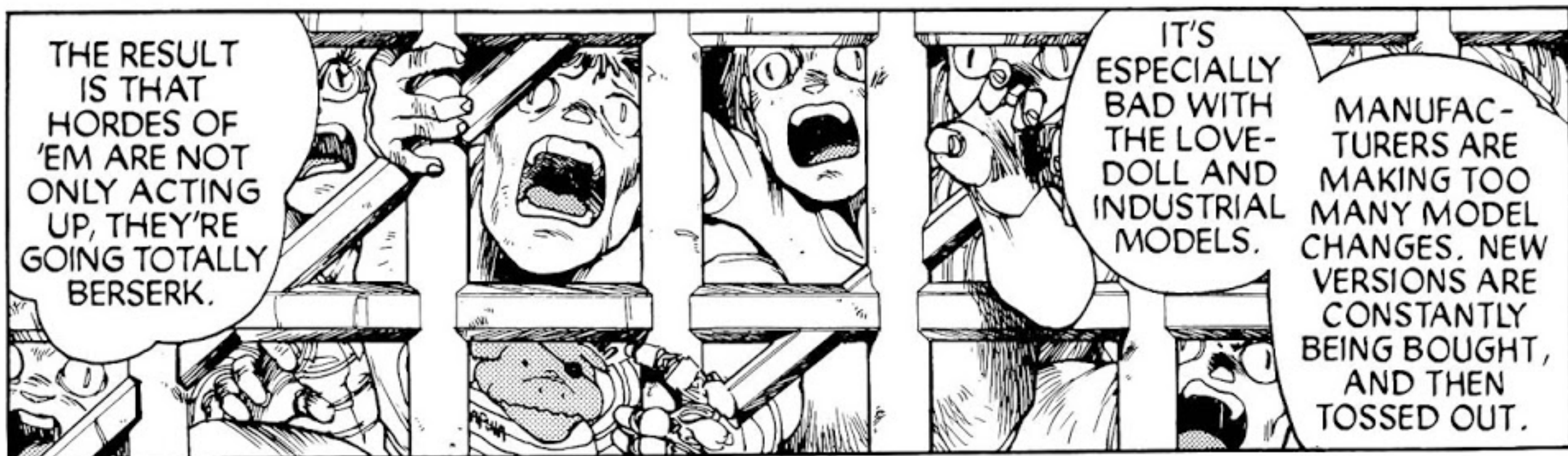




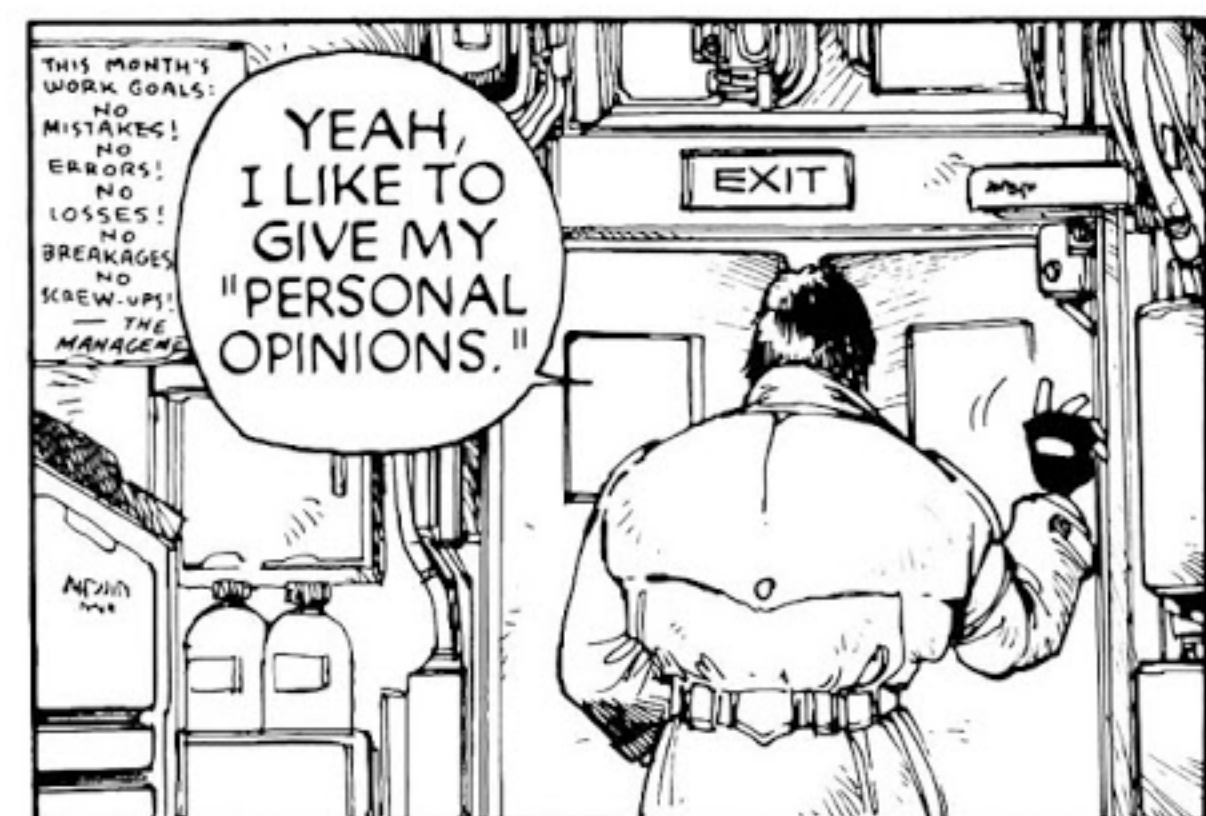








WOULDN'T WORK. TOO EXPENSIVE, AND CONFLICTS WITH PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE.

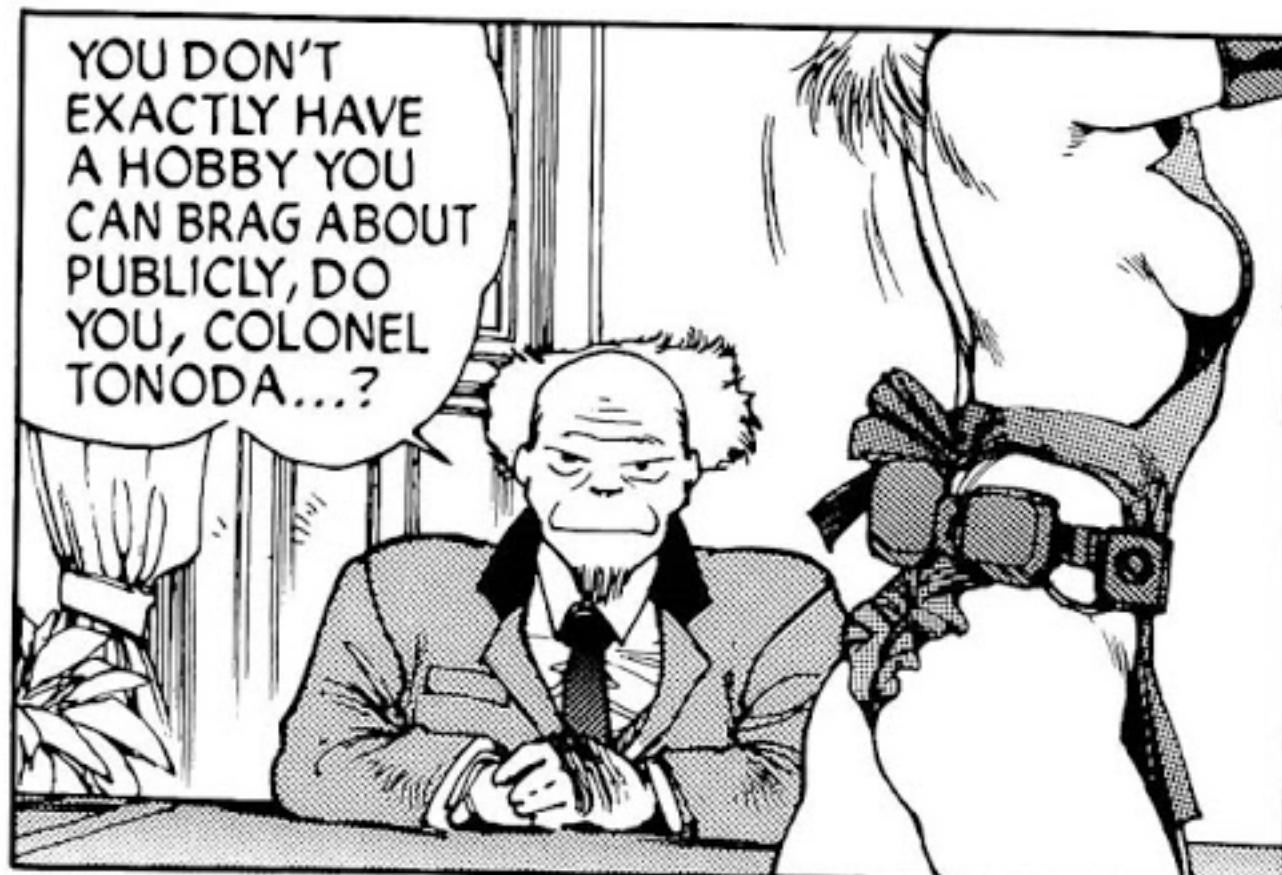




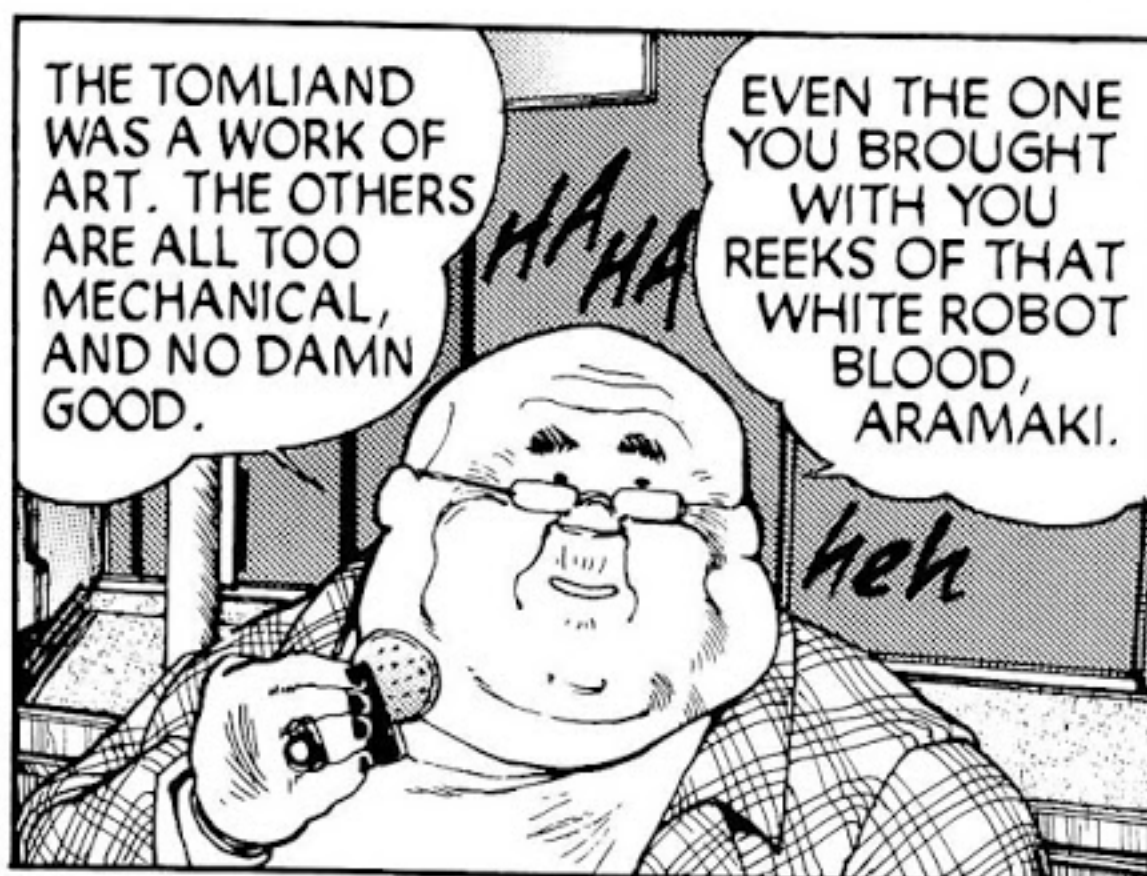
SO,
HOW'S
THE INVE-
STIGATION
GOING?



WELL,
ARA-
MAKI?



YOU DON'T
EXACTLY HAVE
A HOBBY YOU
CAN BRAG ABOUT
PUBLICLY, DO
YOU, COLONEL
TONODA...?



THE TOMLIAND
WAS A WORK OF
ART. THE OTHERS
ARE ALL TOO
MECHANICAL,
AND NO DAMN
GOOD.

EVEN THE ONE
YOU BROUGHT
WITH YOU
REEKS OF THAT
WHITE ROBOT
BLOOD,
ARAMAKI.

HA HA

heh

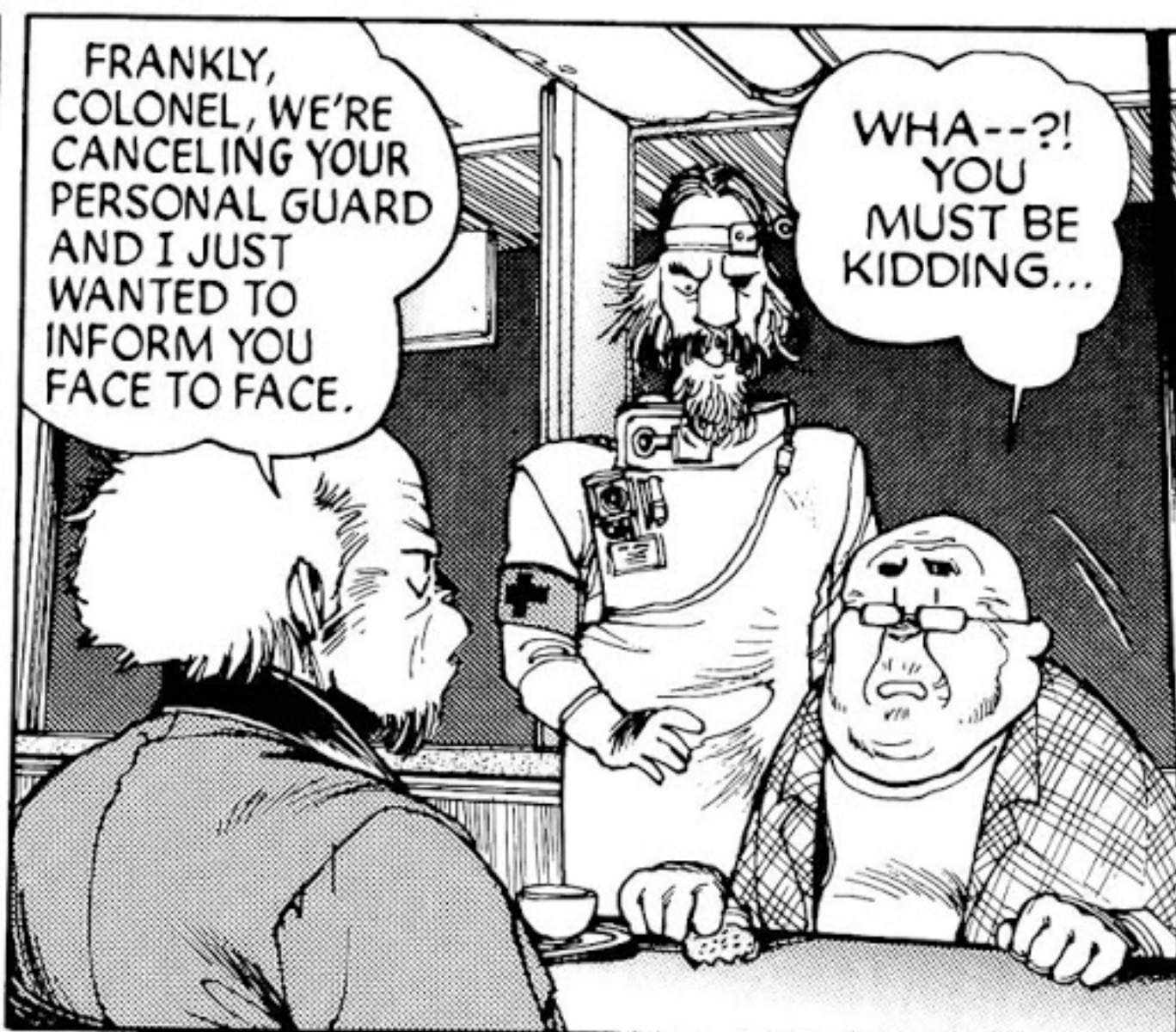


THERE
ARE NO
ROBOTS IN
MY UNIT,
COLONEL
TONODA...

SCREW
YOU!



OH,
YEAH?

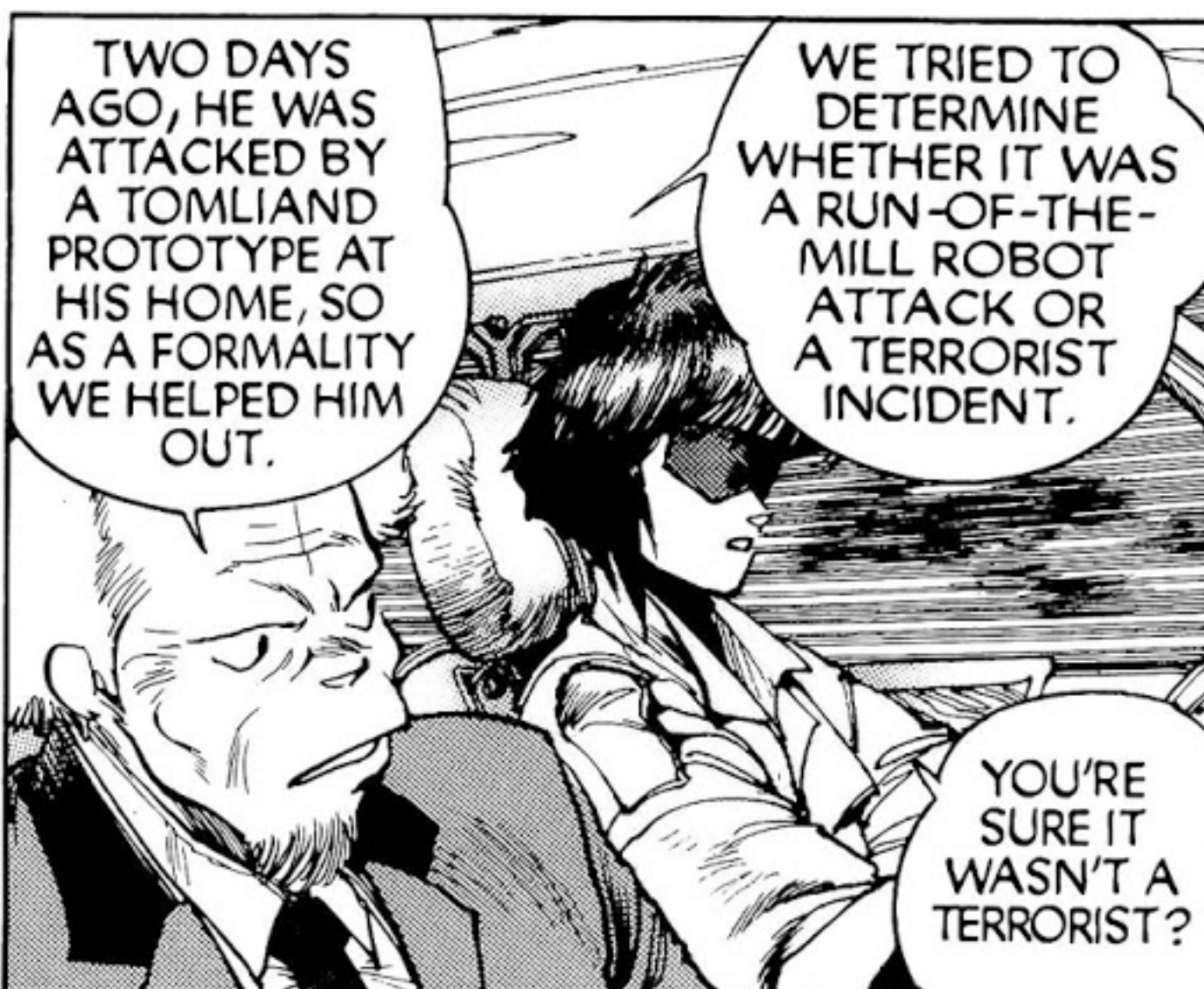


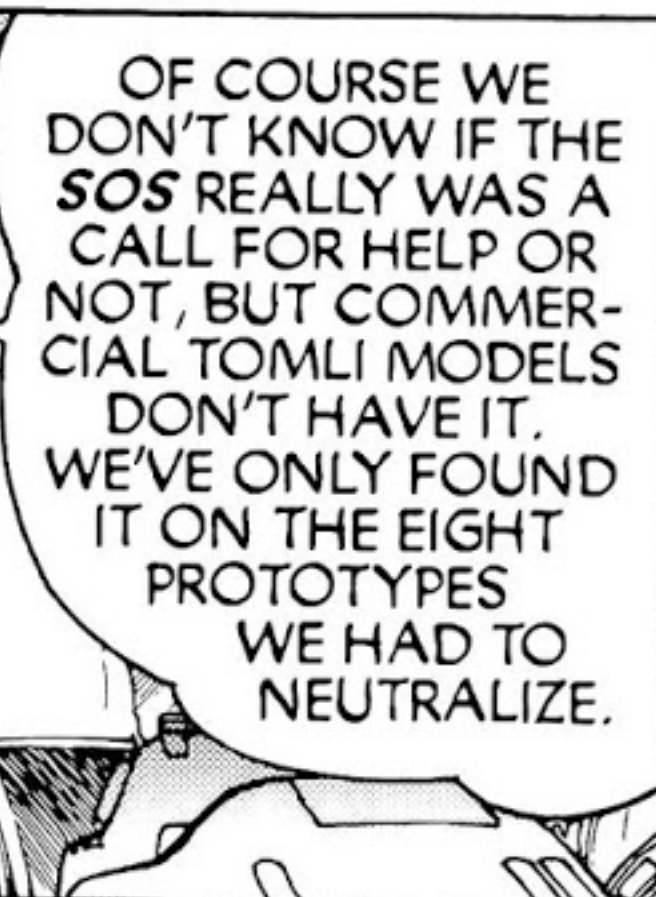
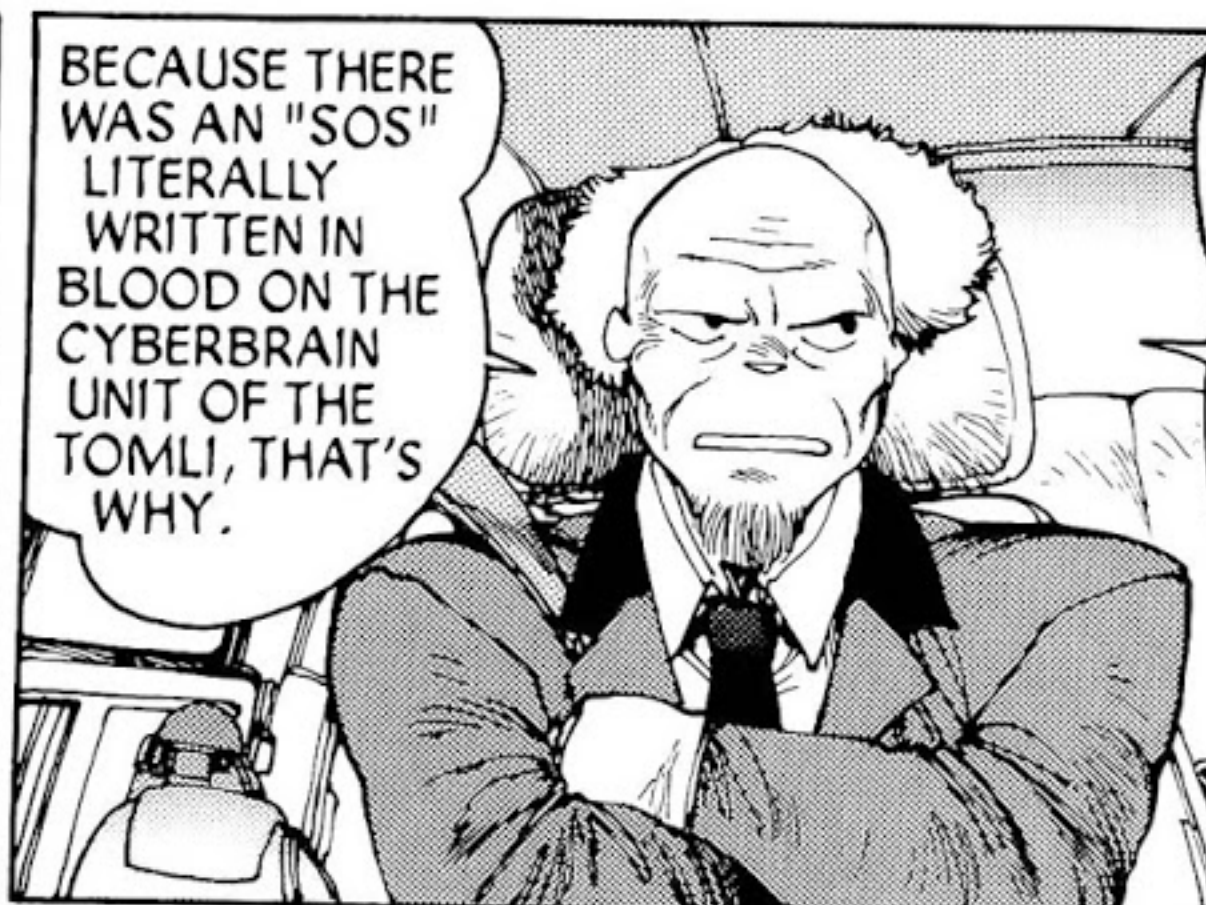
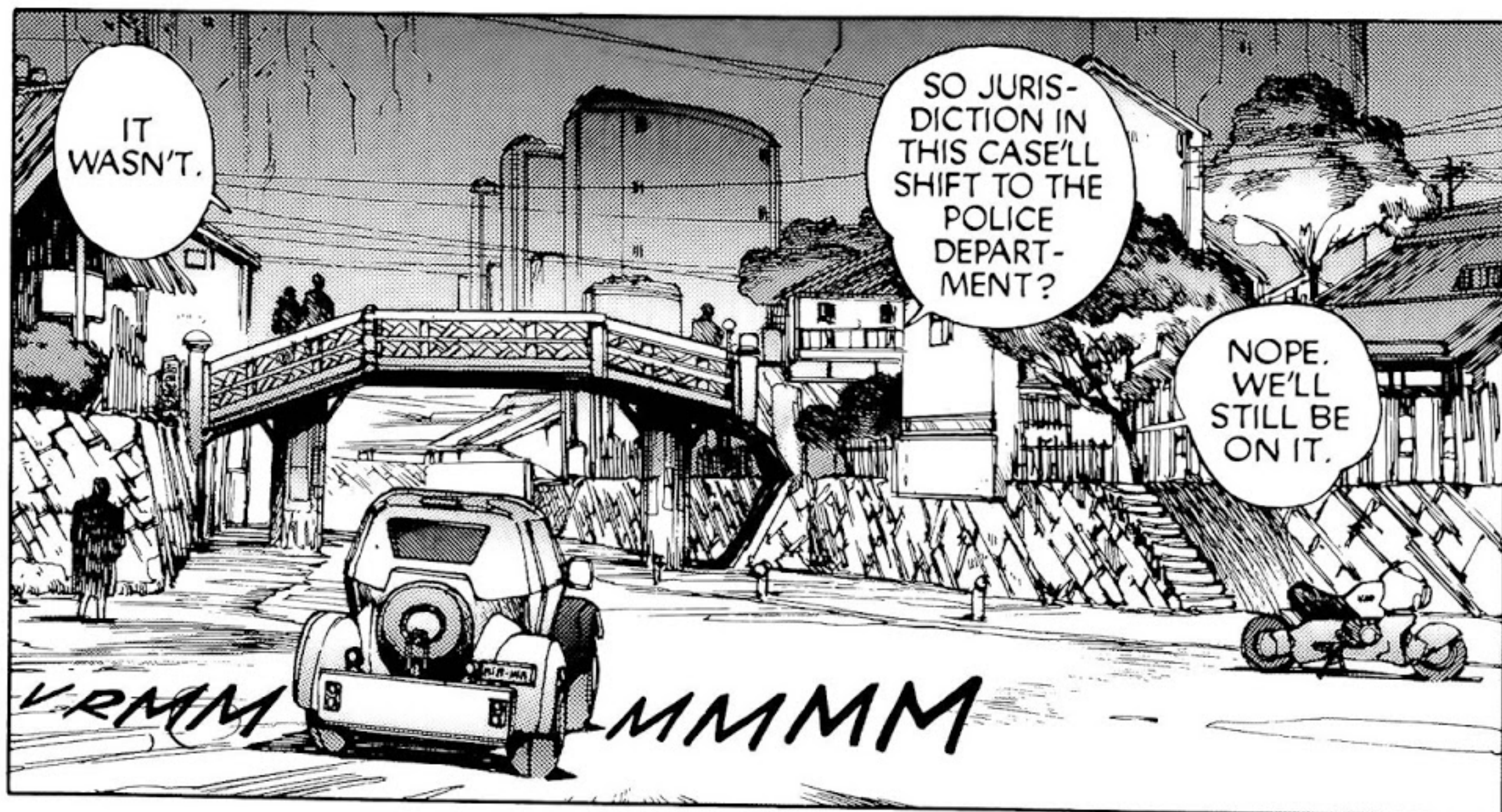
FRANKLY,
COLONEL, WE'RE
CANCELING YOUR
PERSONAL GUARD
AND I JUST
WANTED TO
INFORM YOU
FACE TO FACE.

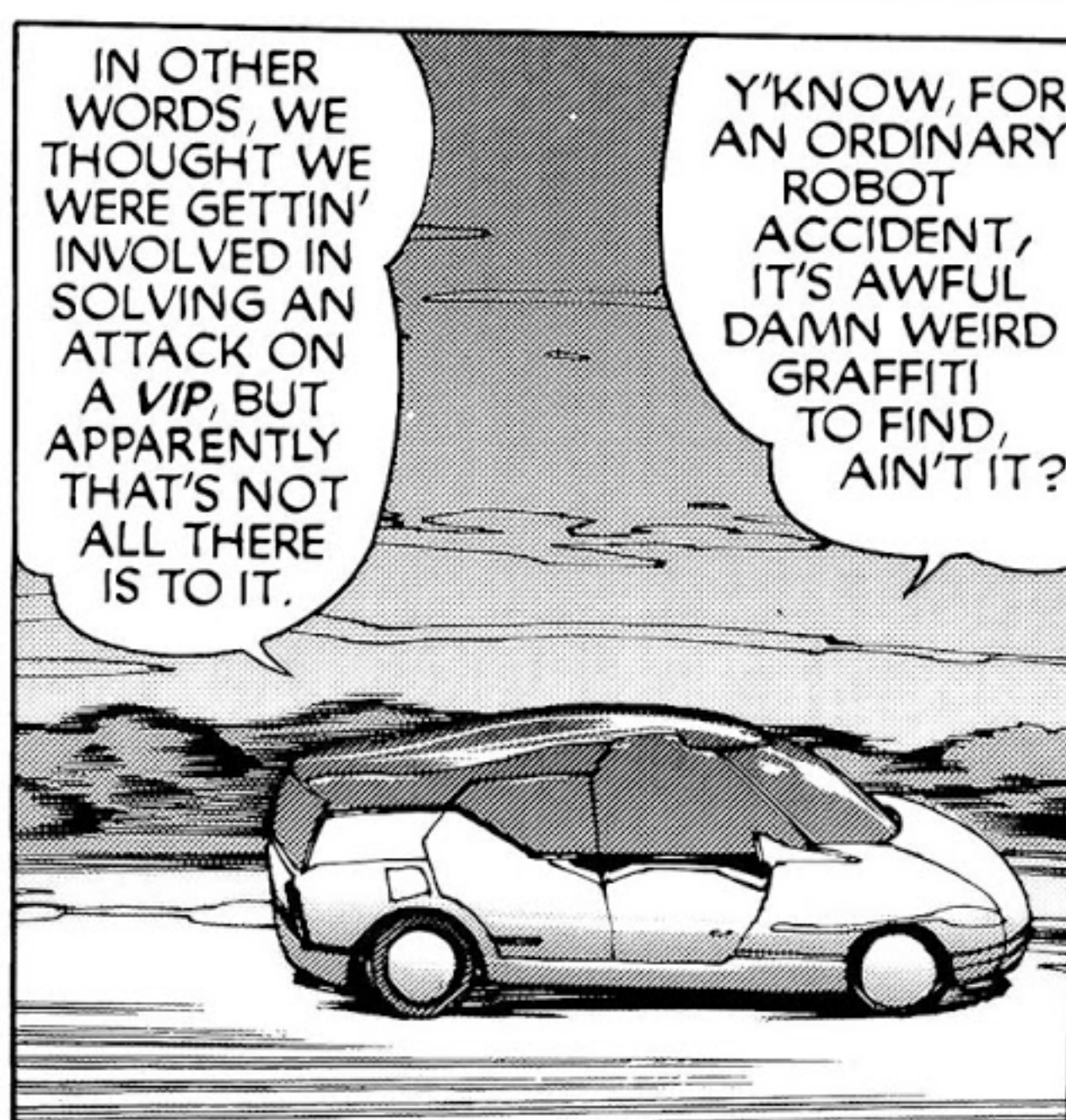
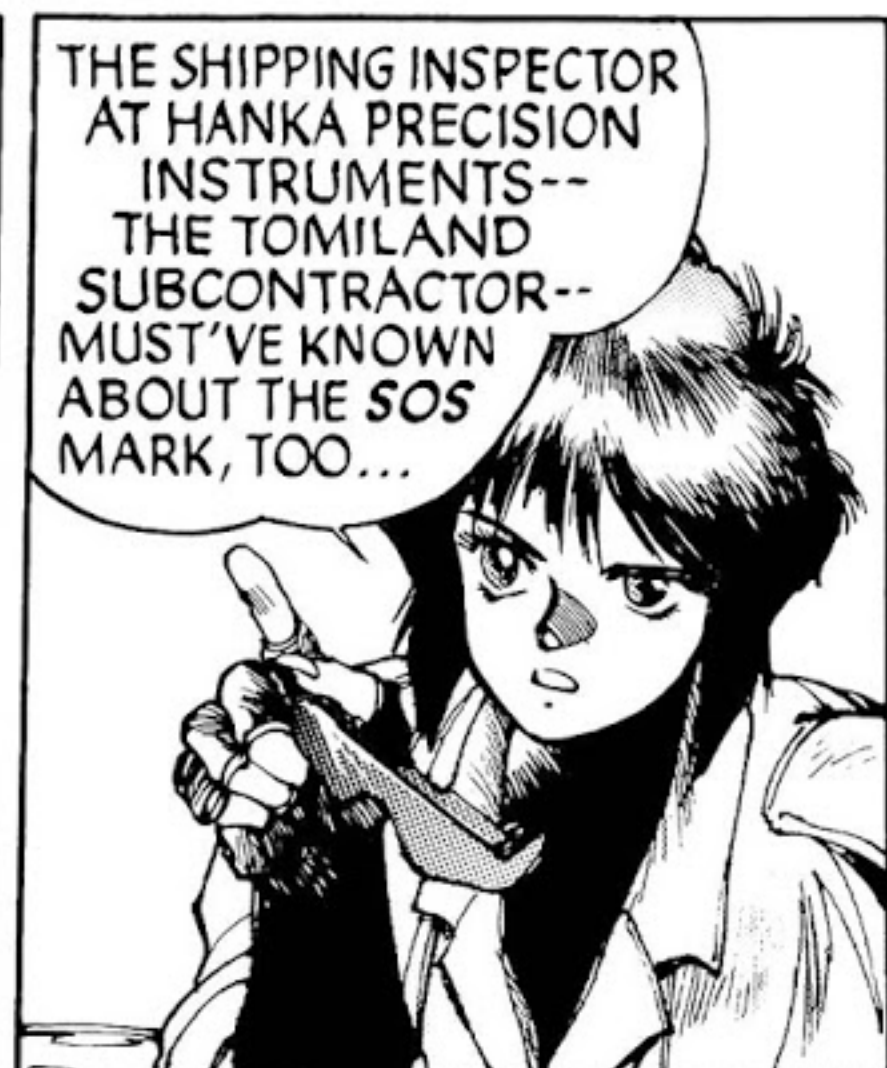
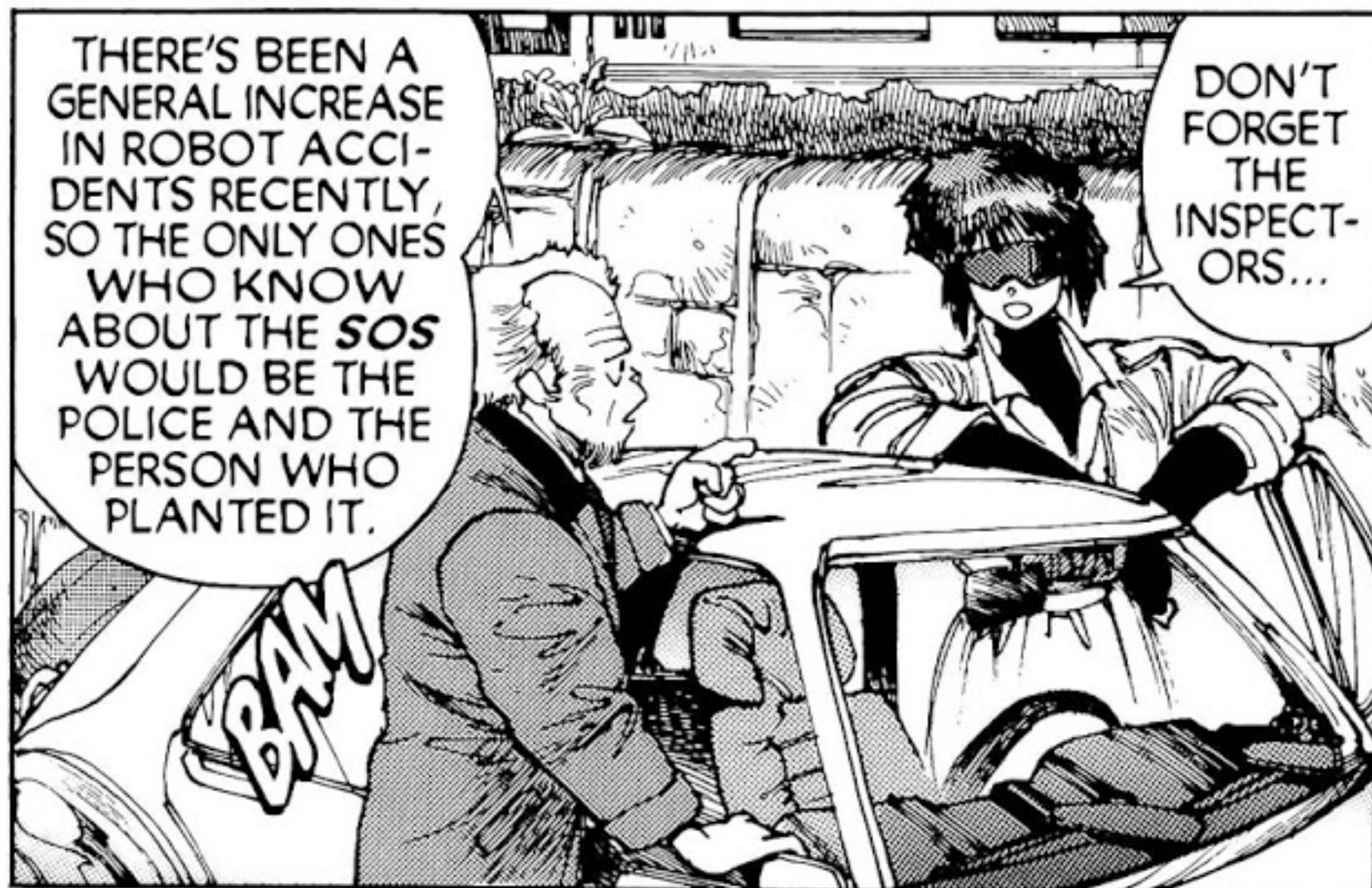
WHA--?!
YOU
MUST BE
KIDDING...

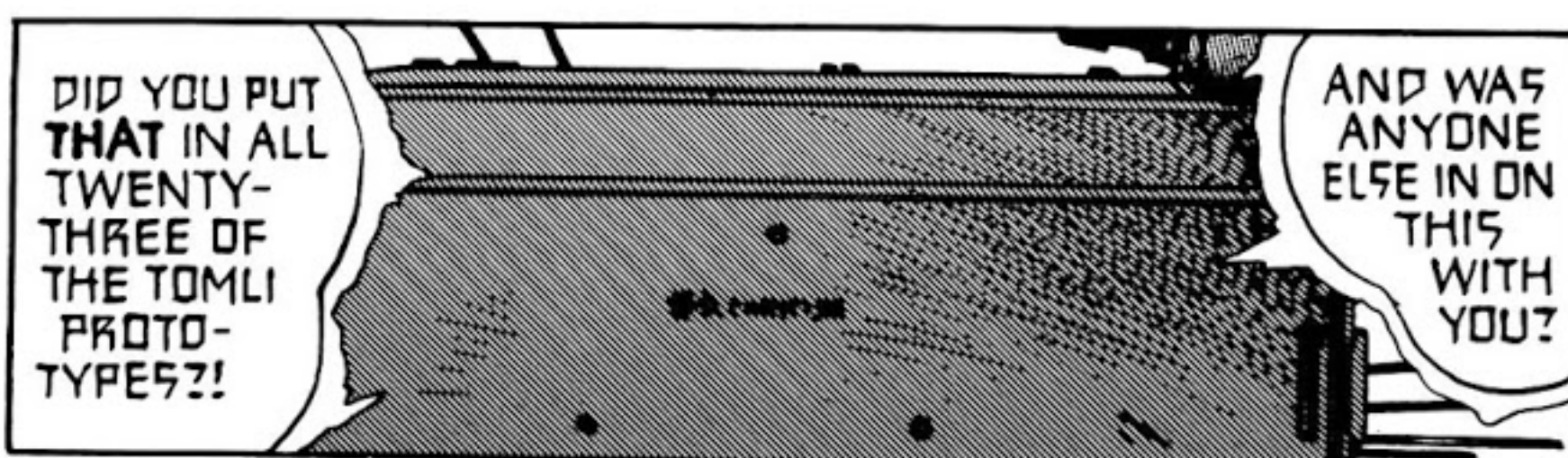
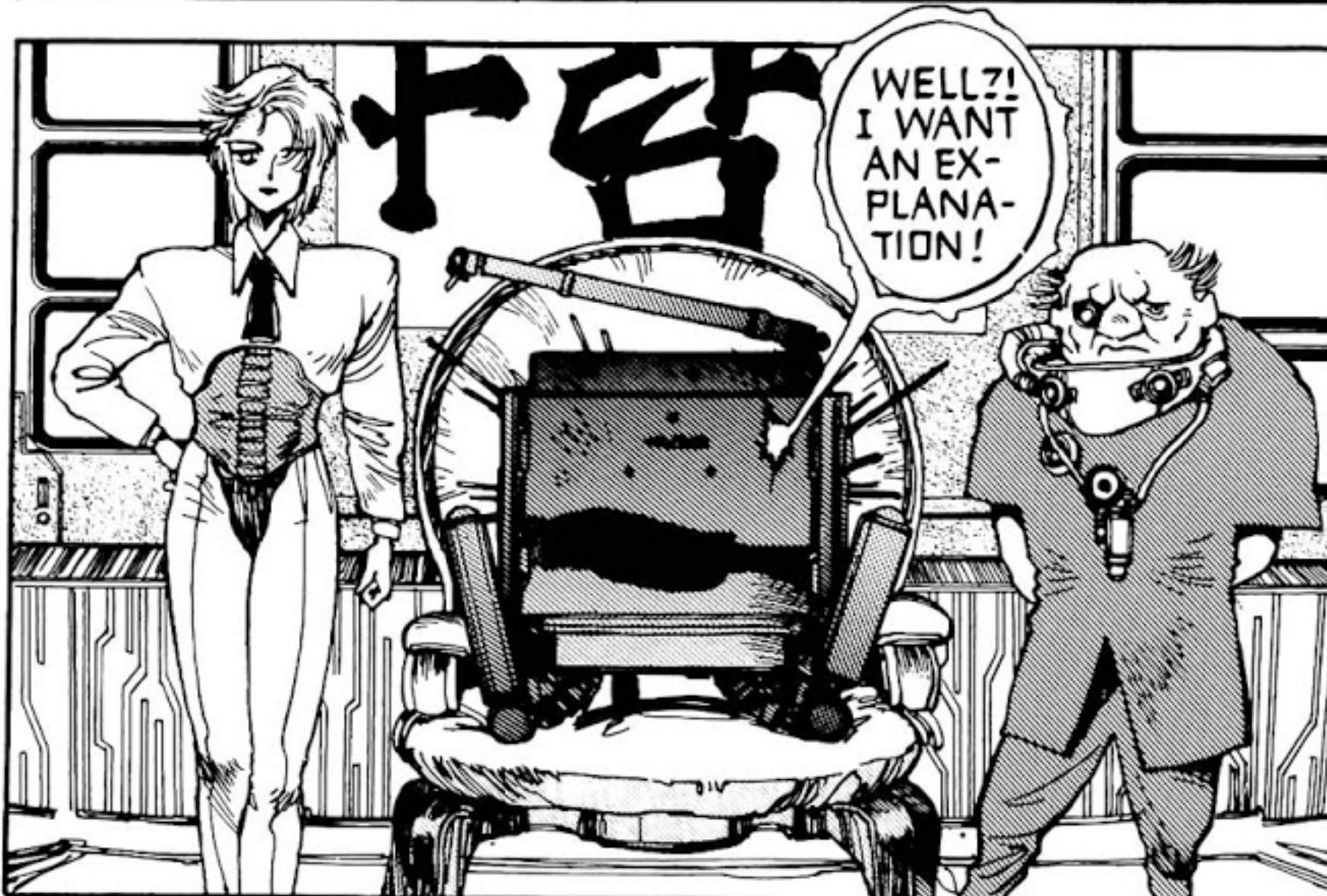
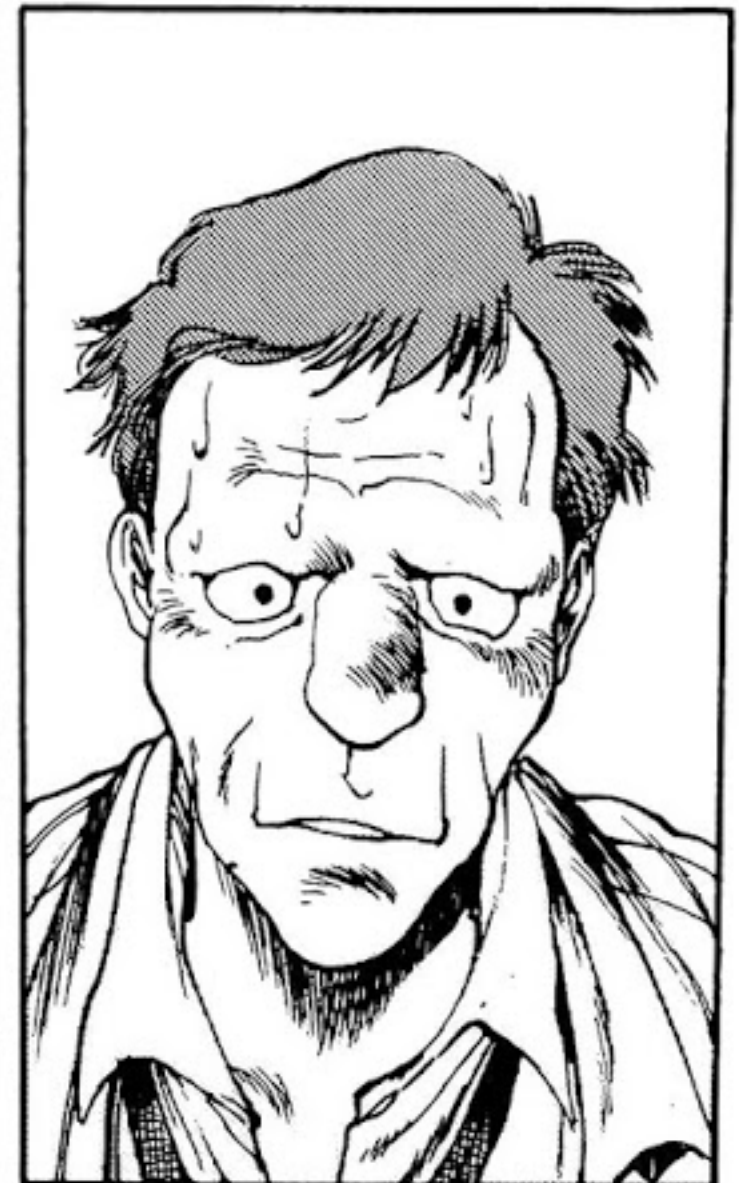


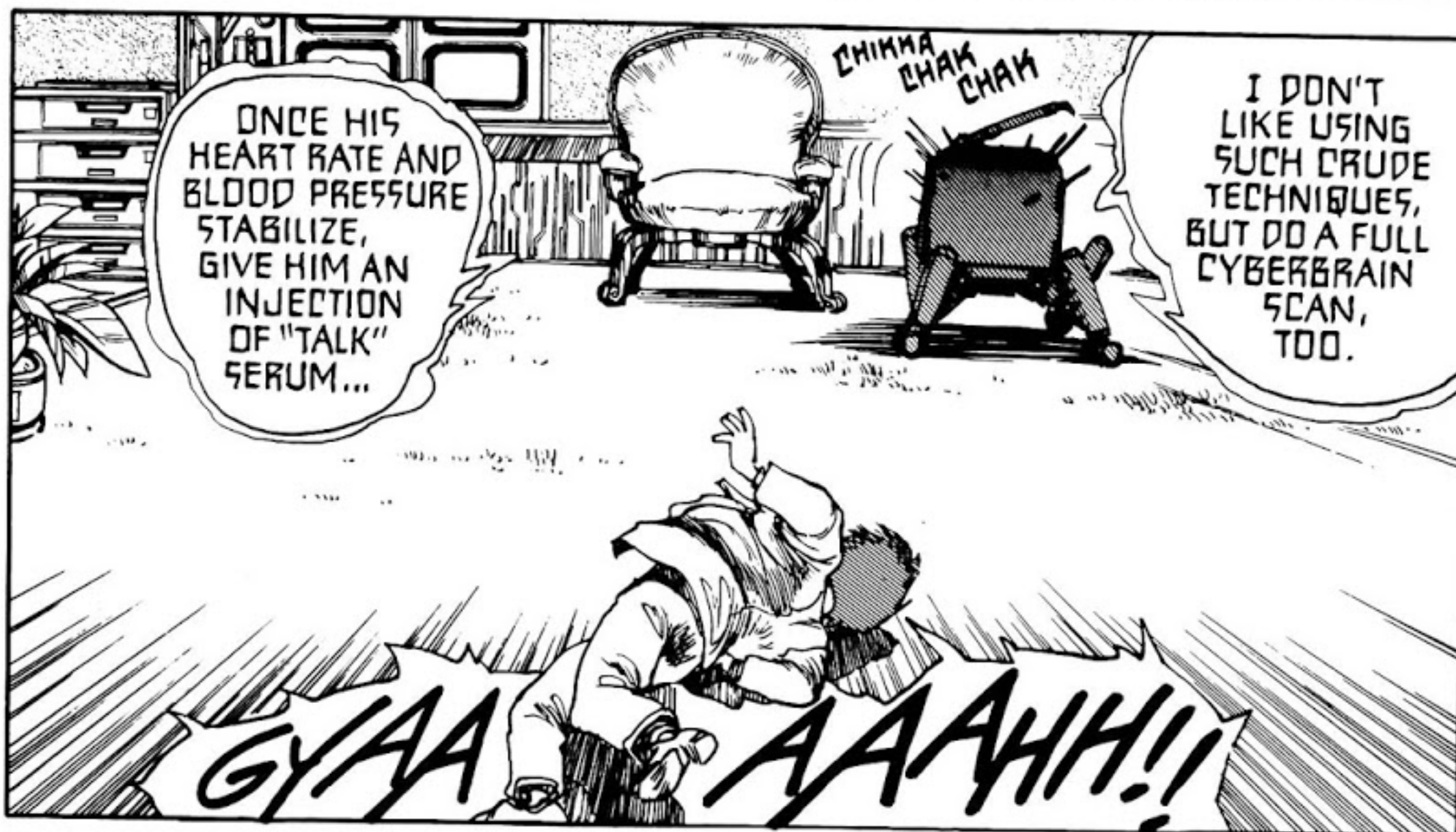
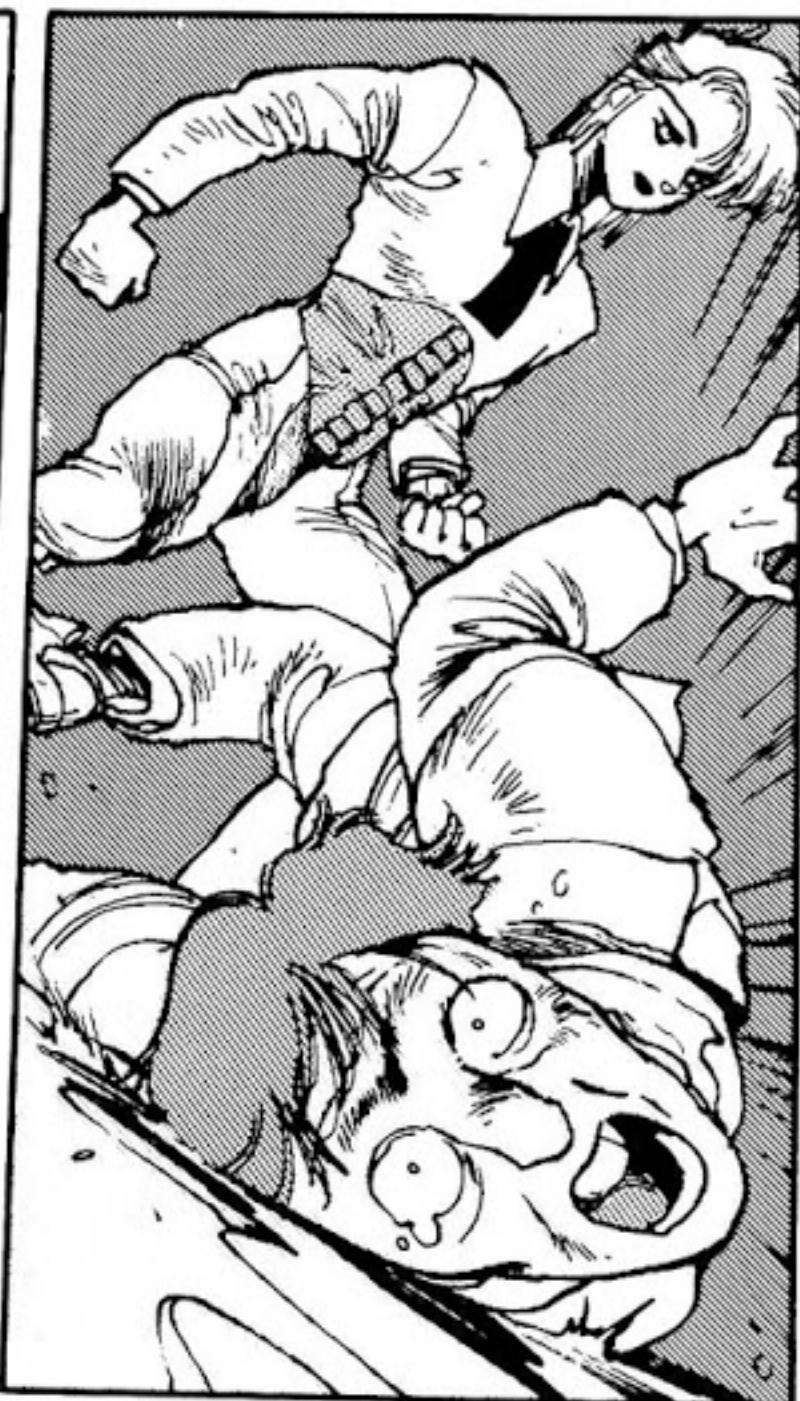
THE CURRENT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

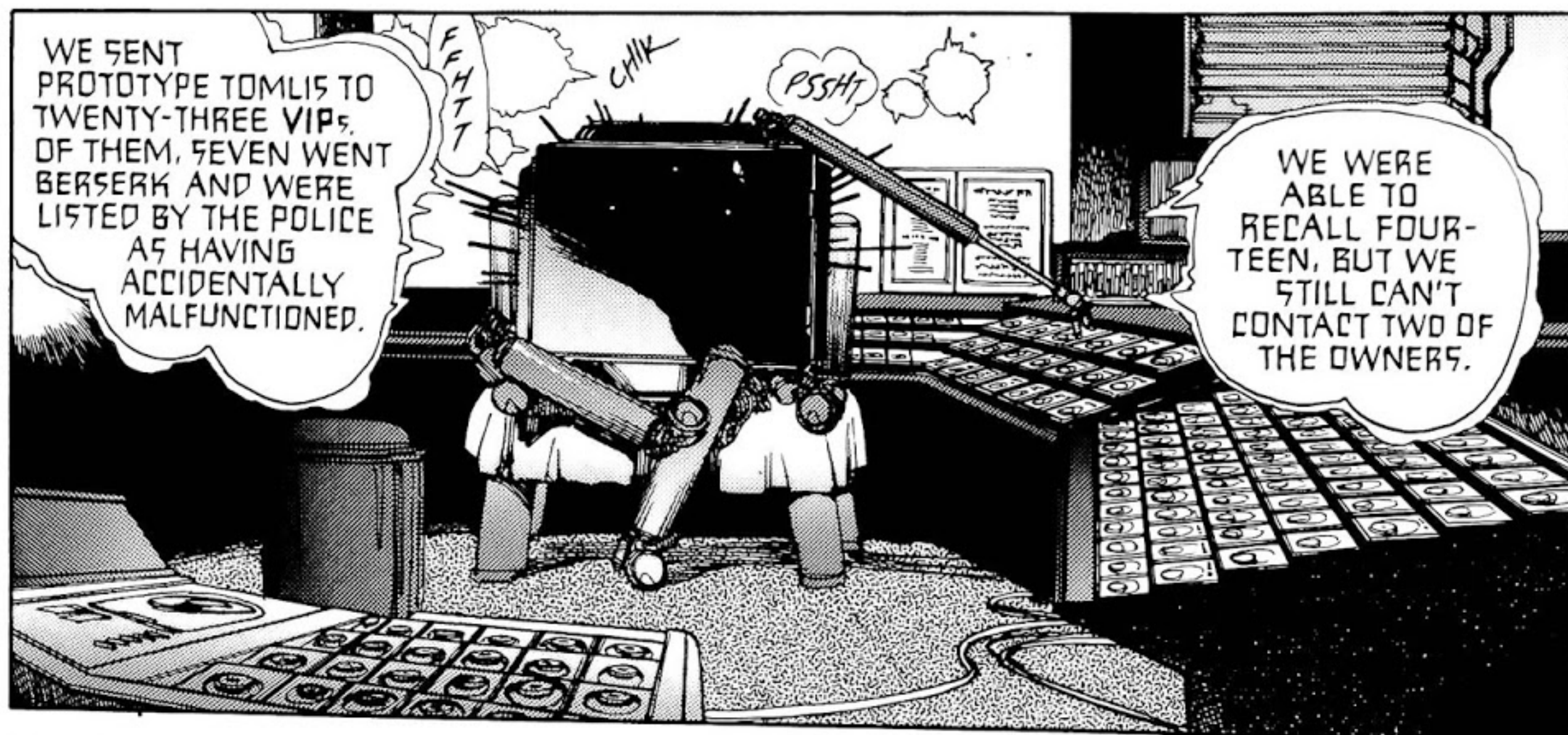












WE SENT PROTOTYPE TOMLIS TO TWENTY-THREE VIPs. OF THEM, SEVEN WENT BERSERK AND WERE LISTED BY THE POLICE AS HAVING ACCIDENTALLY MALFUNCTIONED.

WE WERE ABLE TO RECALL FOURTEEN, BUT WE STILL CAN'T CONTACT TWO OF THE OWNERS.



IF THE POLICE HEAVY ARMOR UNITS HAD DESTROYED THE CYBERBRAIN CASE, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM.

BUT WE DON'T WANT THE SOFTWARE IN THEM TO BE ANALYZED WHILE IT'S STILL FUNCTIONAL...



I... SET IT UP... SO ALL TWENTY-THREE WOULD... GO BERSERK... THEN WROTE...

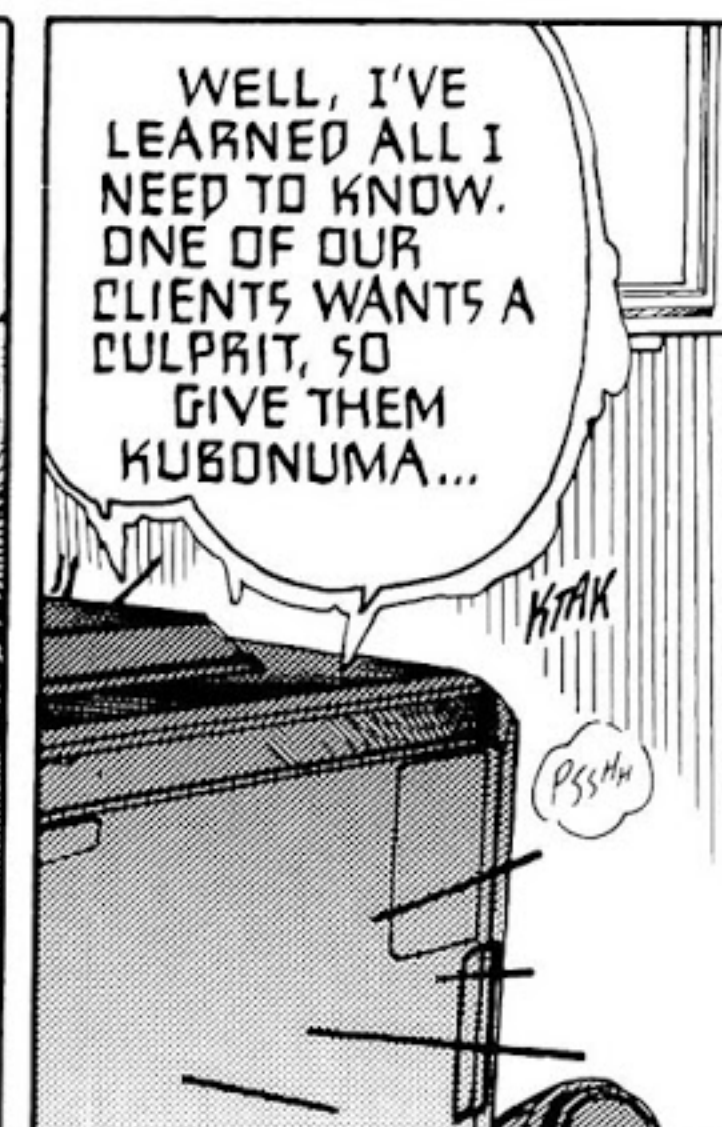
...THE SOS ON THE CYBERBRAIN... I WAS ASKED BY LINK AND ADAM IN STAGE FOUR... IN EXCHANGE... FOR... TWO NIGHTS WITH THEM...



WELL, DOCTOR? IS THE SERUM WORKING?



YESSIR, WITH FULL EFFECT.

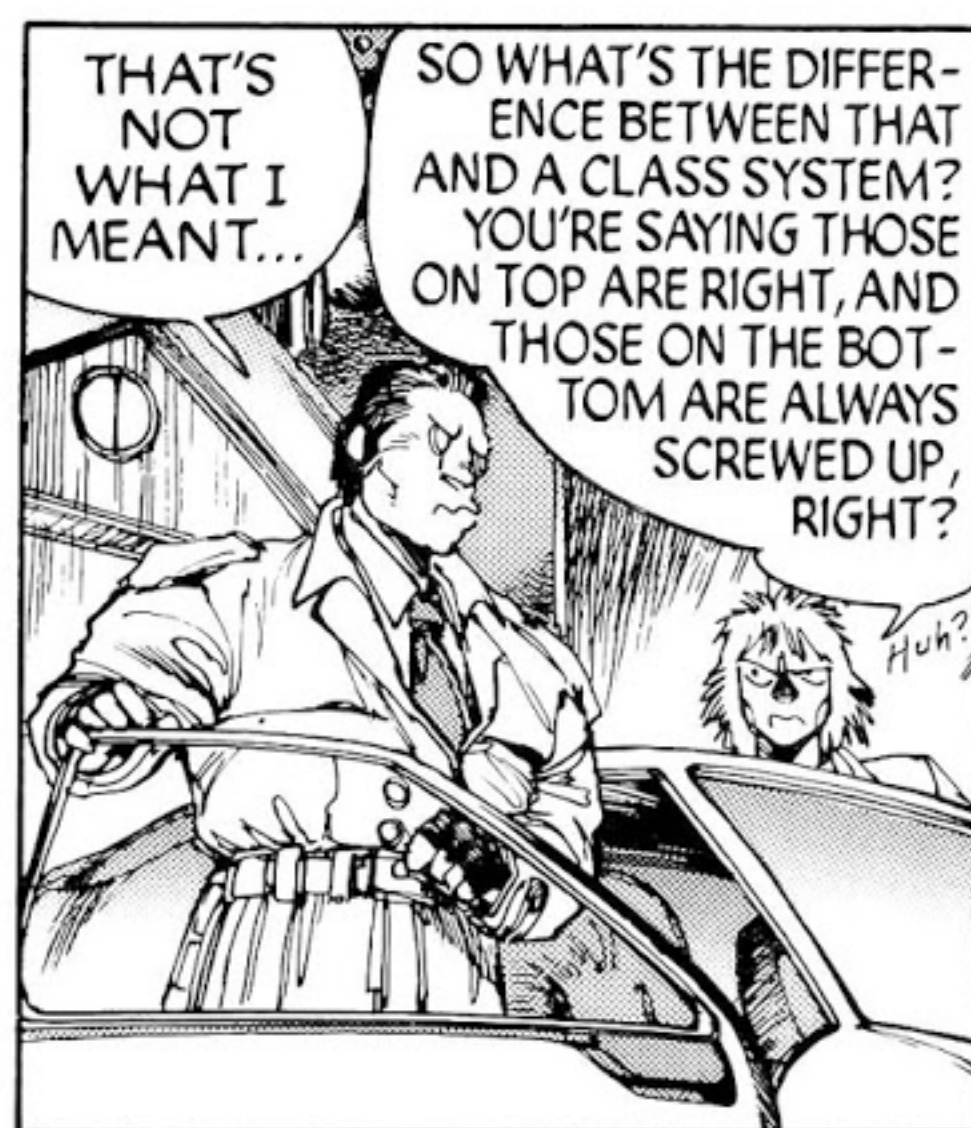
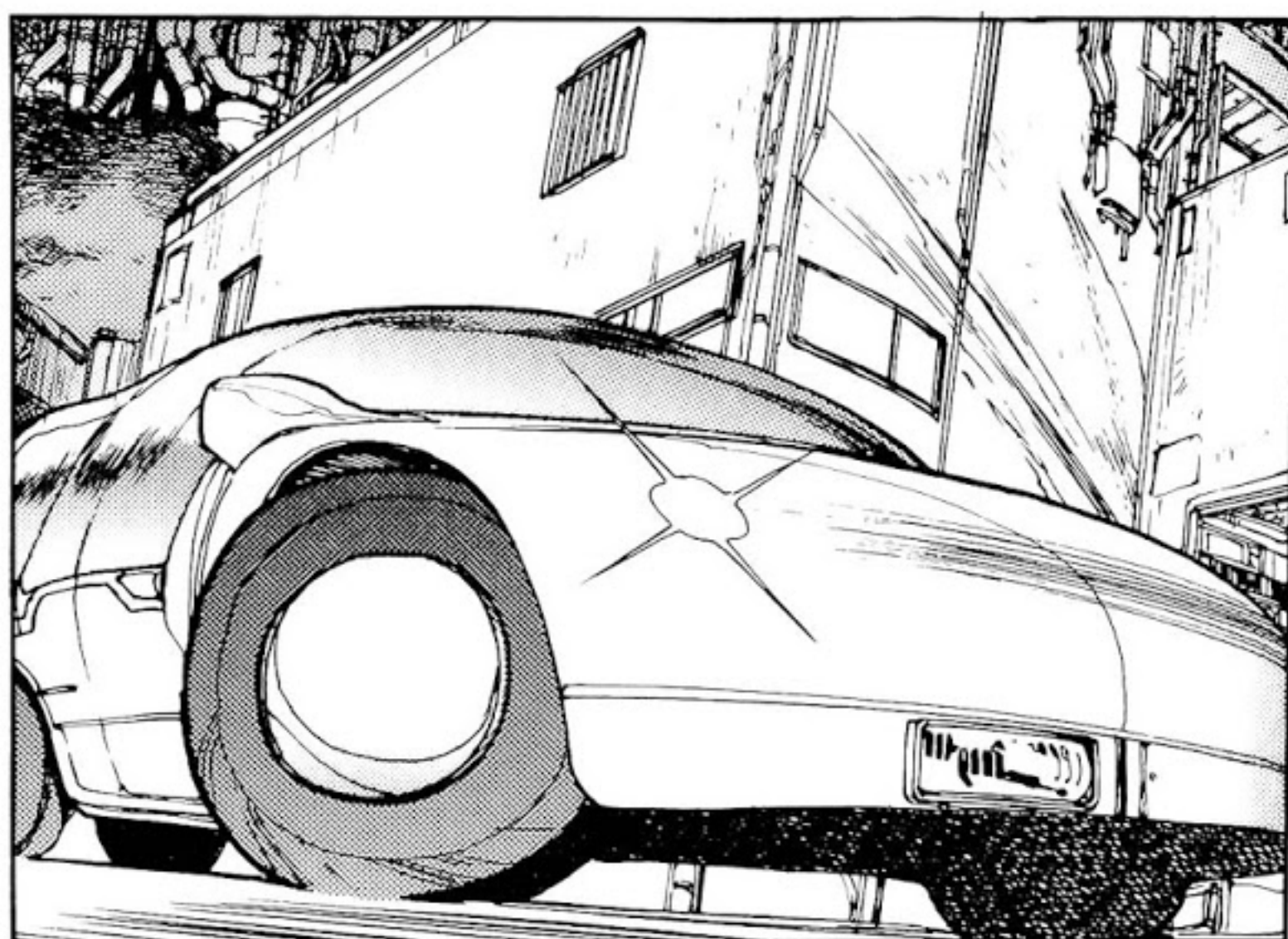
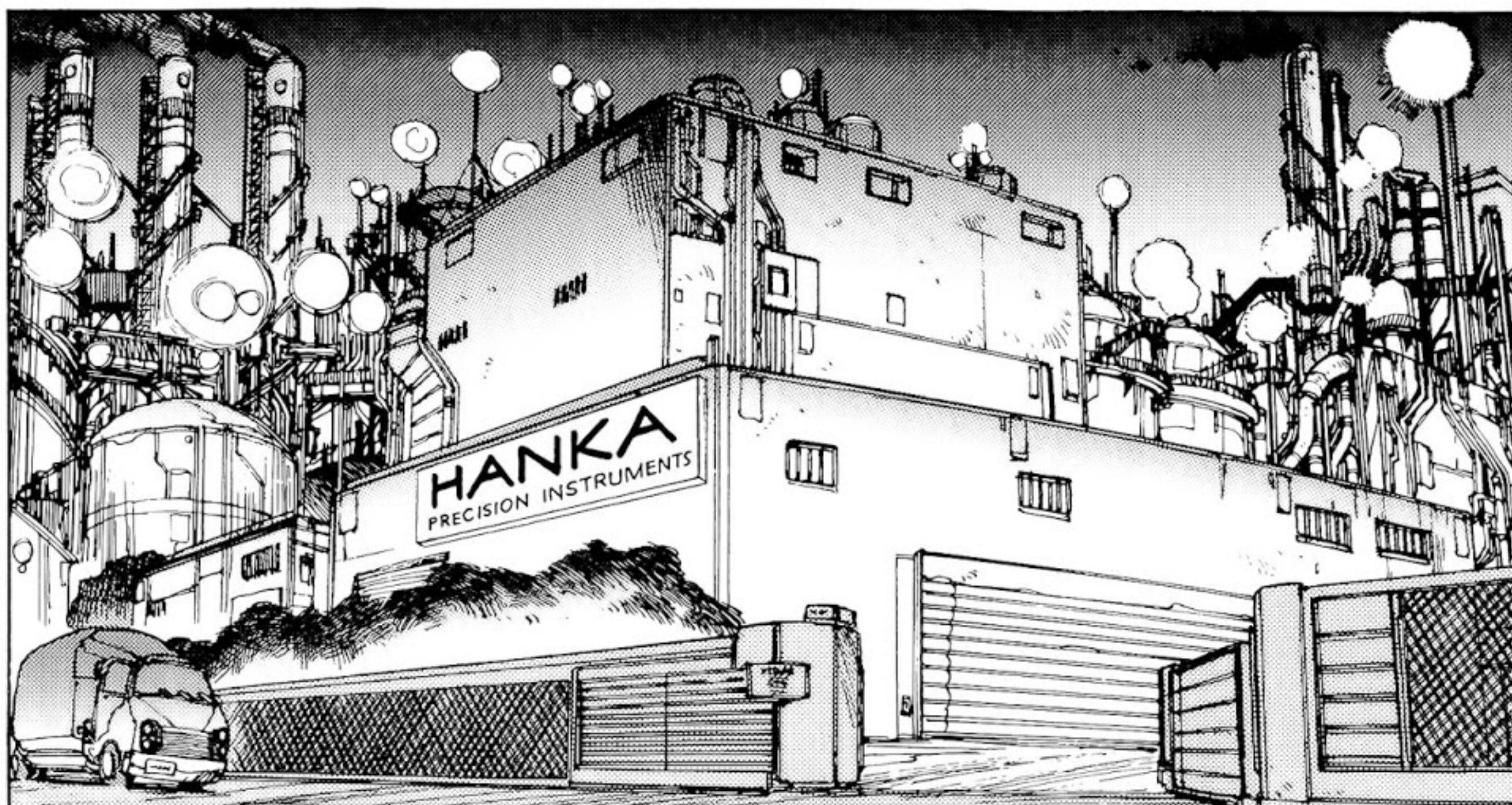


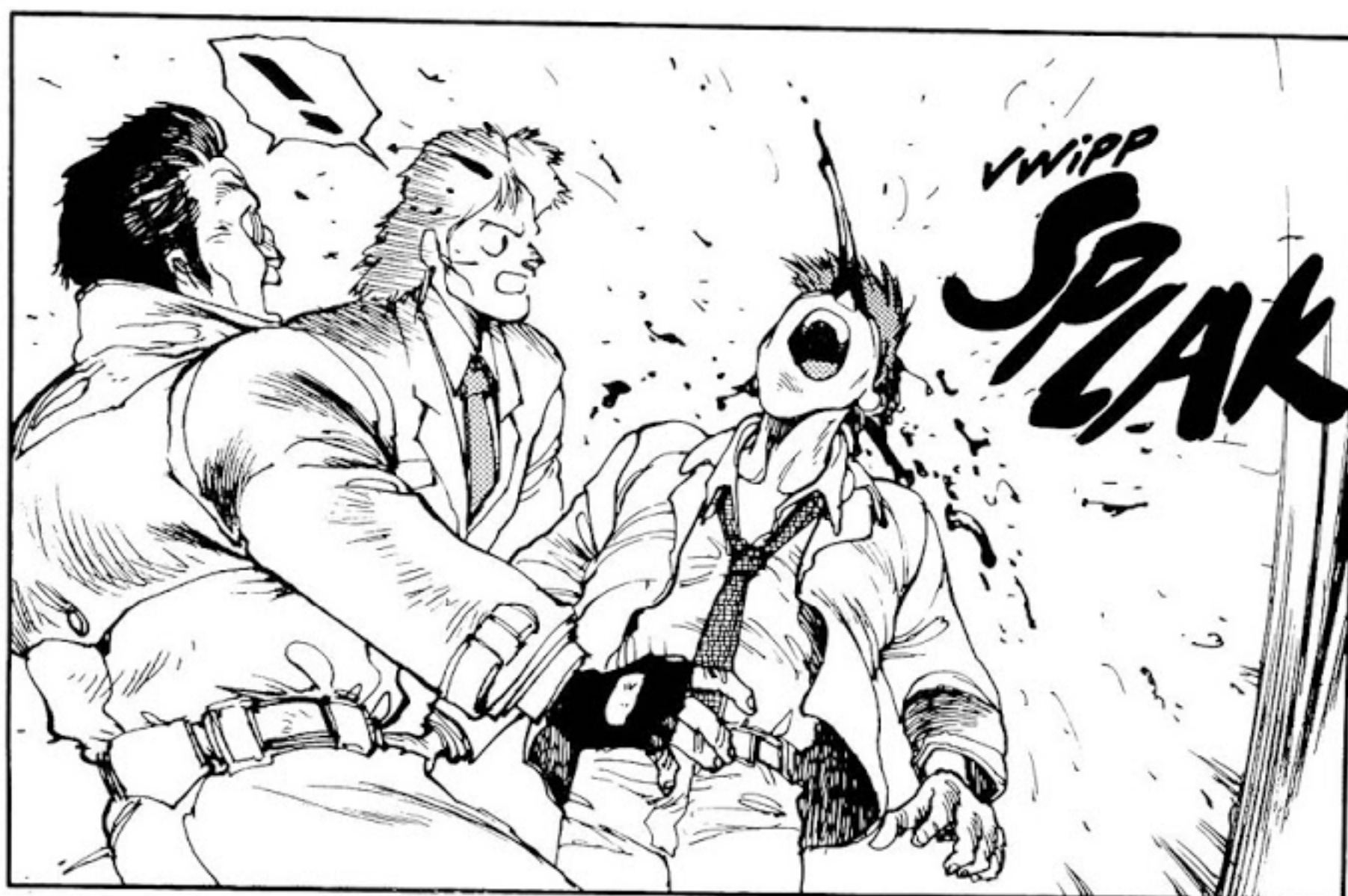
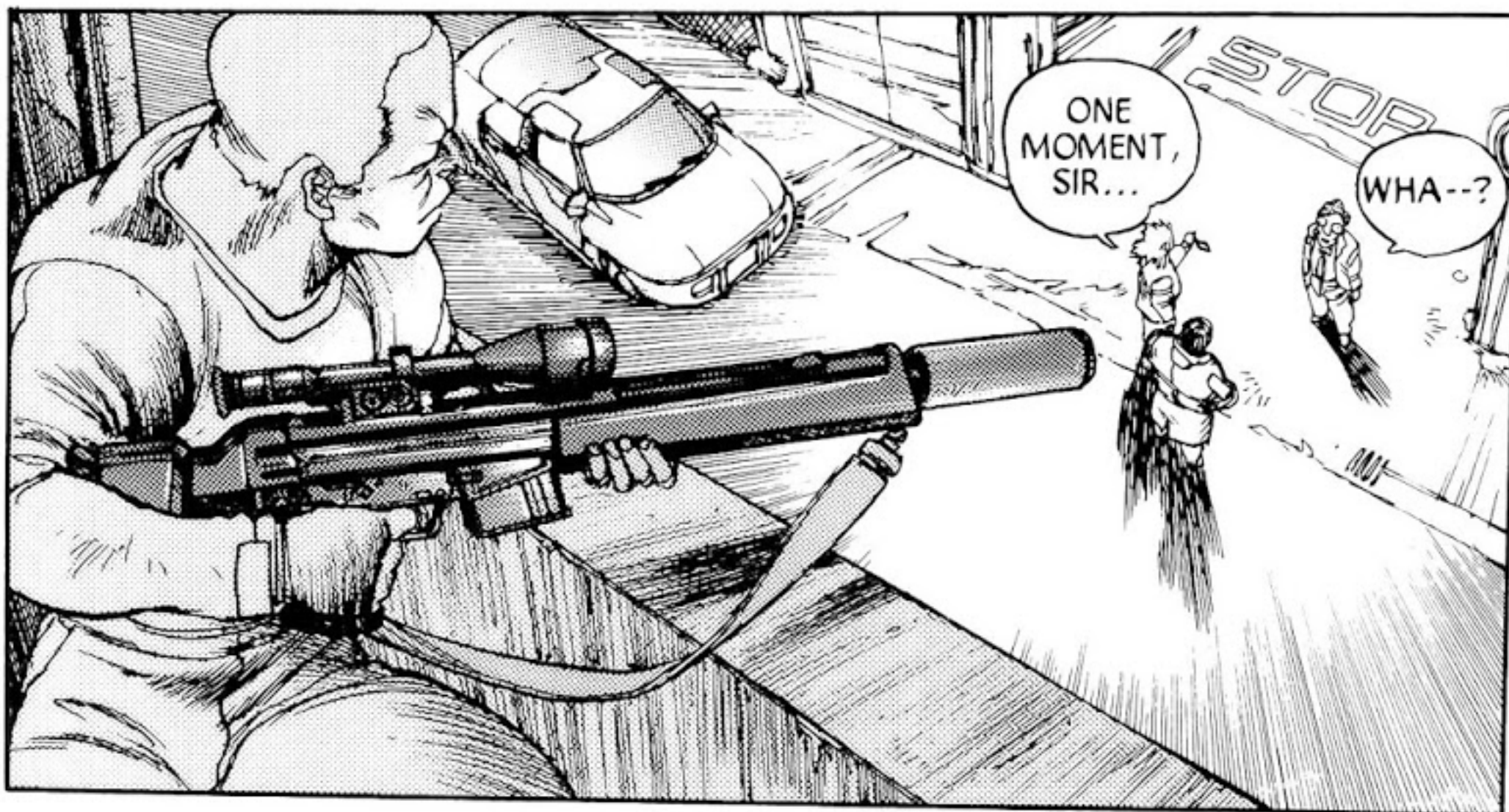
WELL, I'VE LEARNED ALL I NEED TO KNOW. ONE OF OUR CLIENTS WANTS A CULPRIT, SO GIVE THEM KUBONUMA...



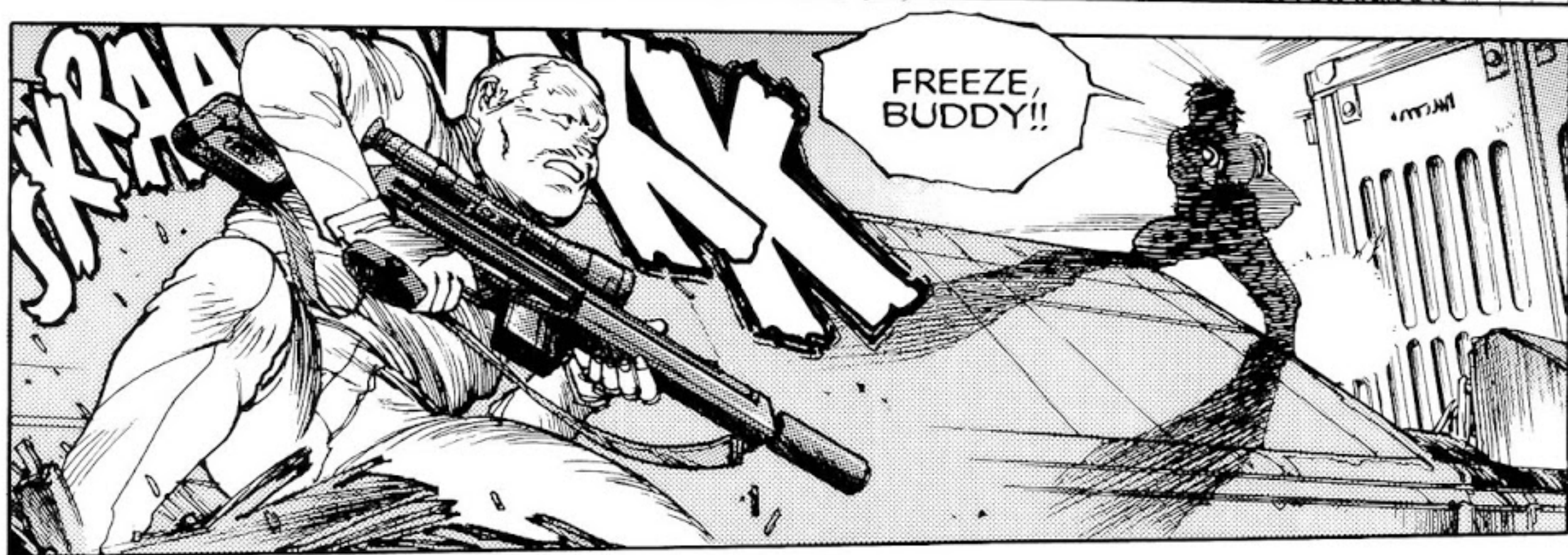
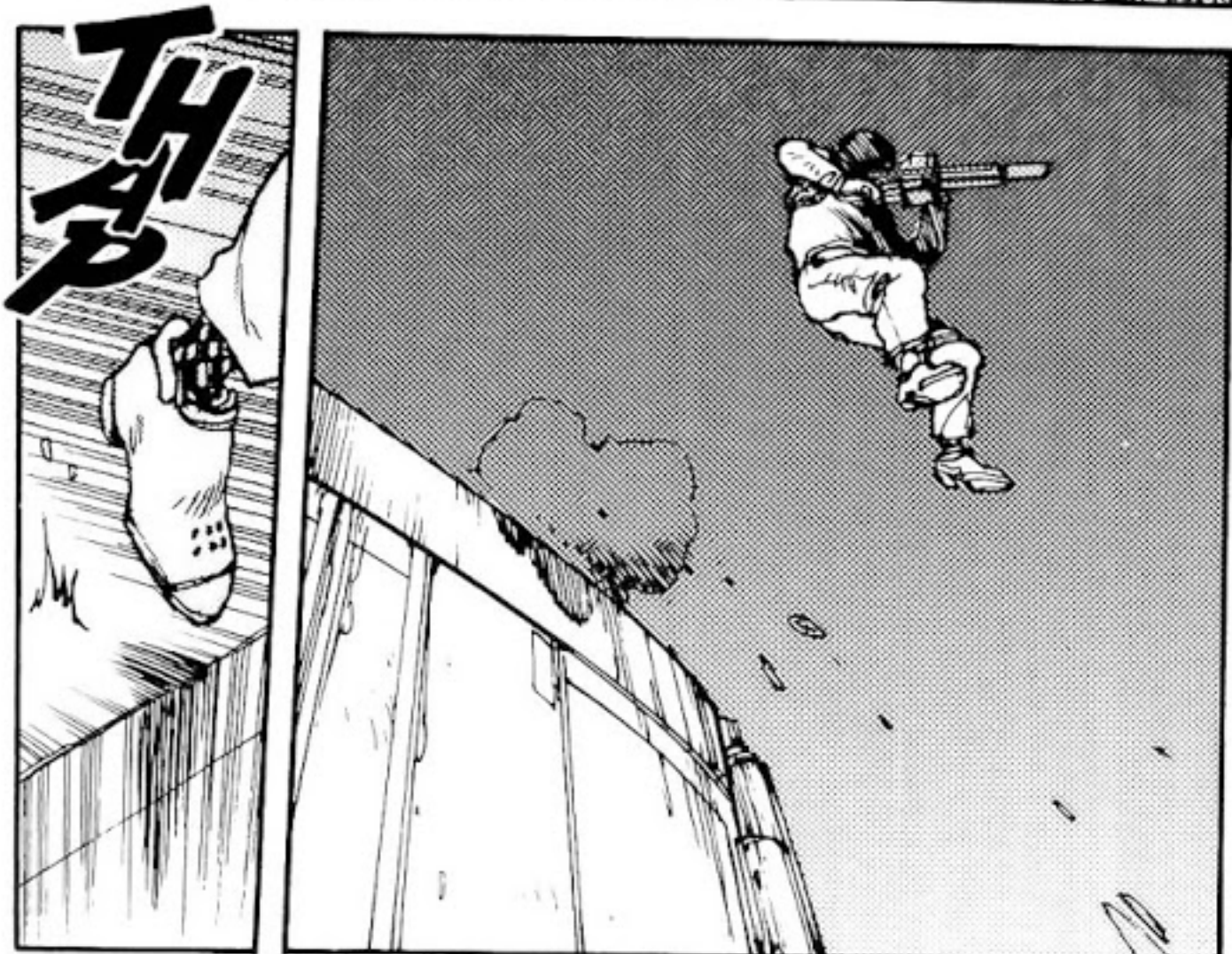
YESSIR.

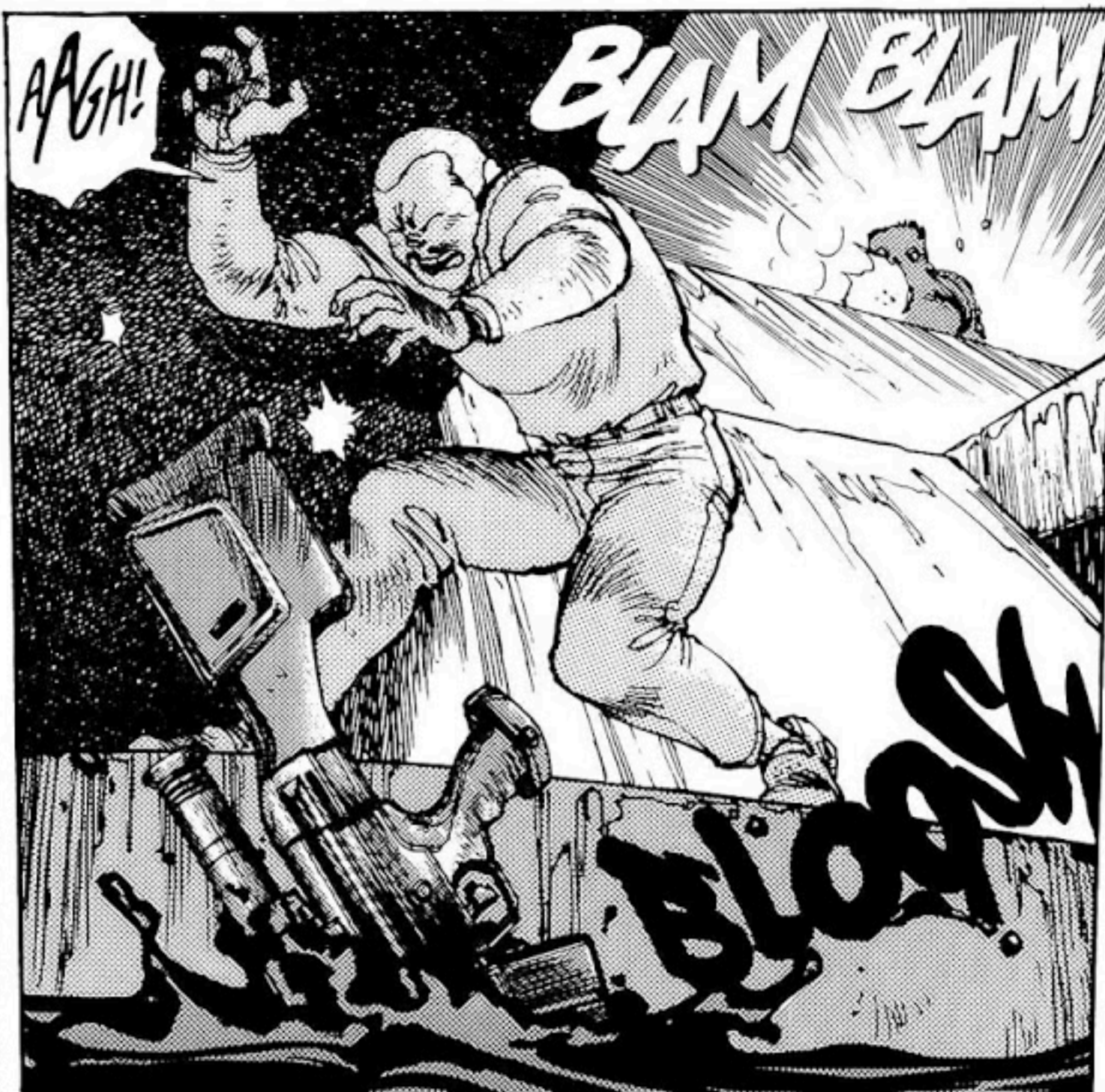
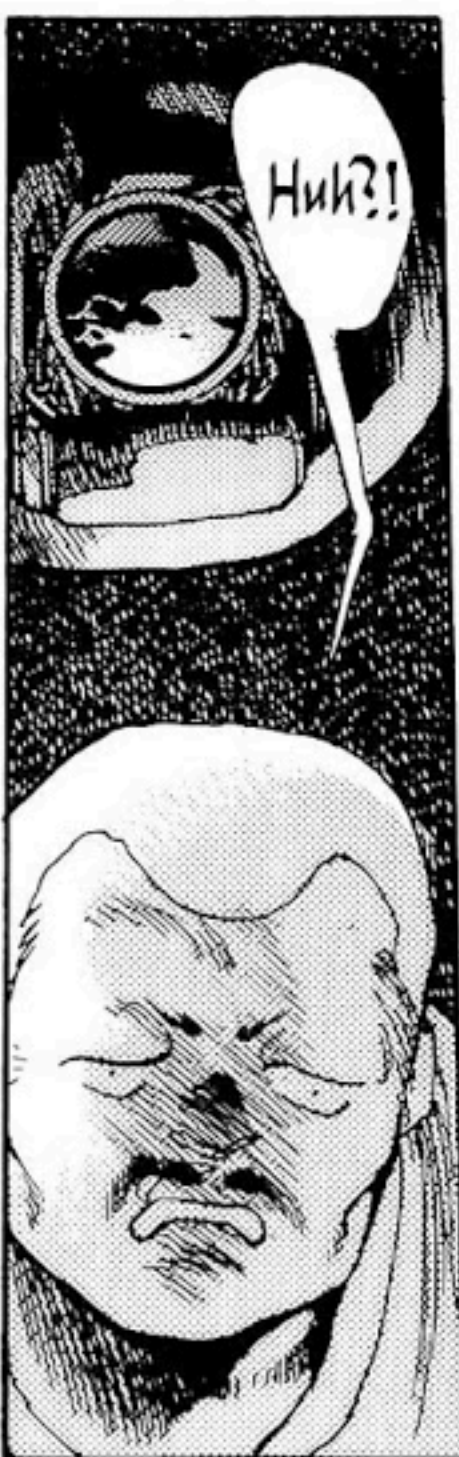
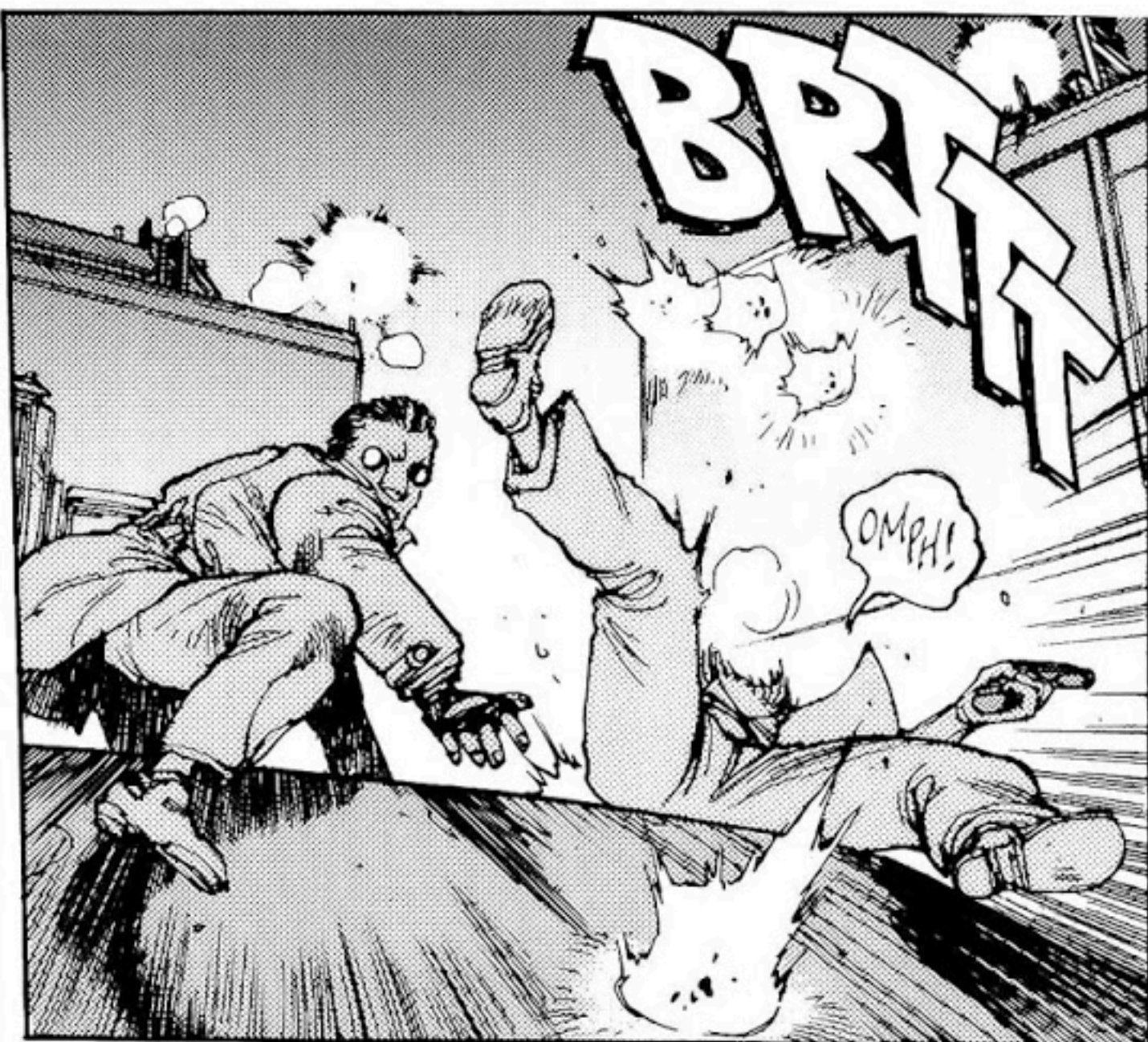
BUT... BUT IF YOU PERSONALLY... TOOK RESPONSIBILITY... WORKERS COULD KEEP THEIR JOBS...







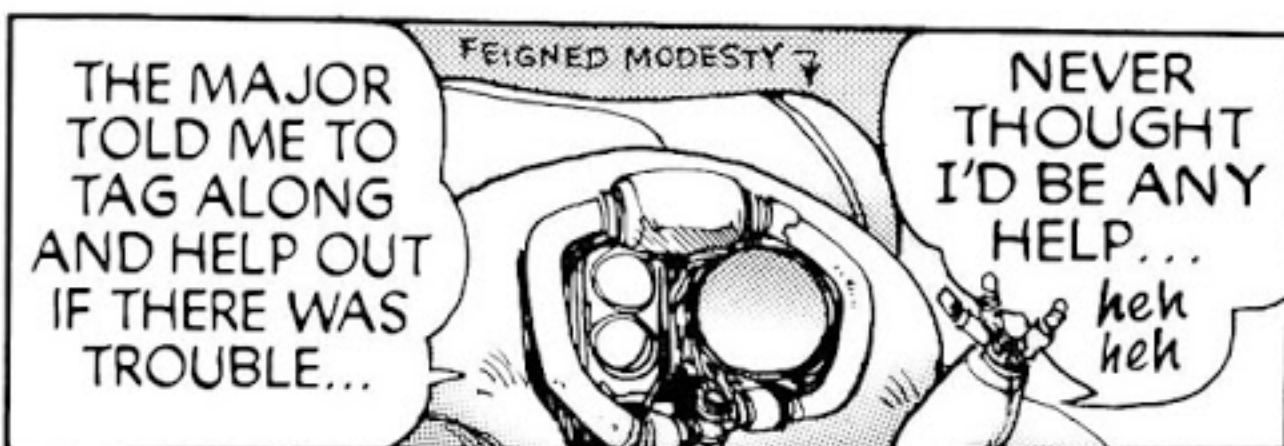






FUCHI-KOMA?!

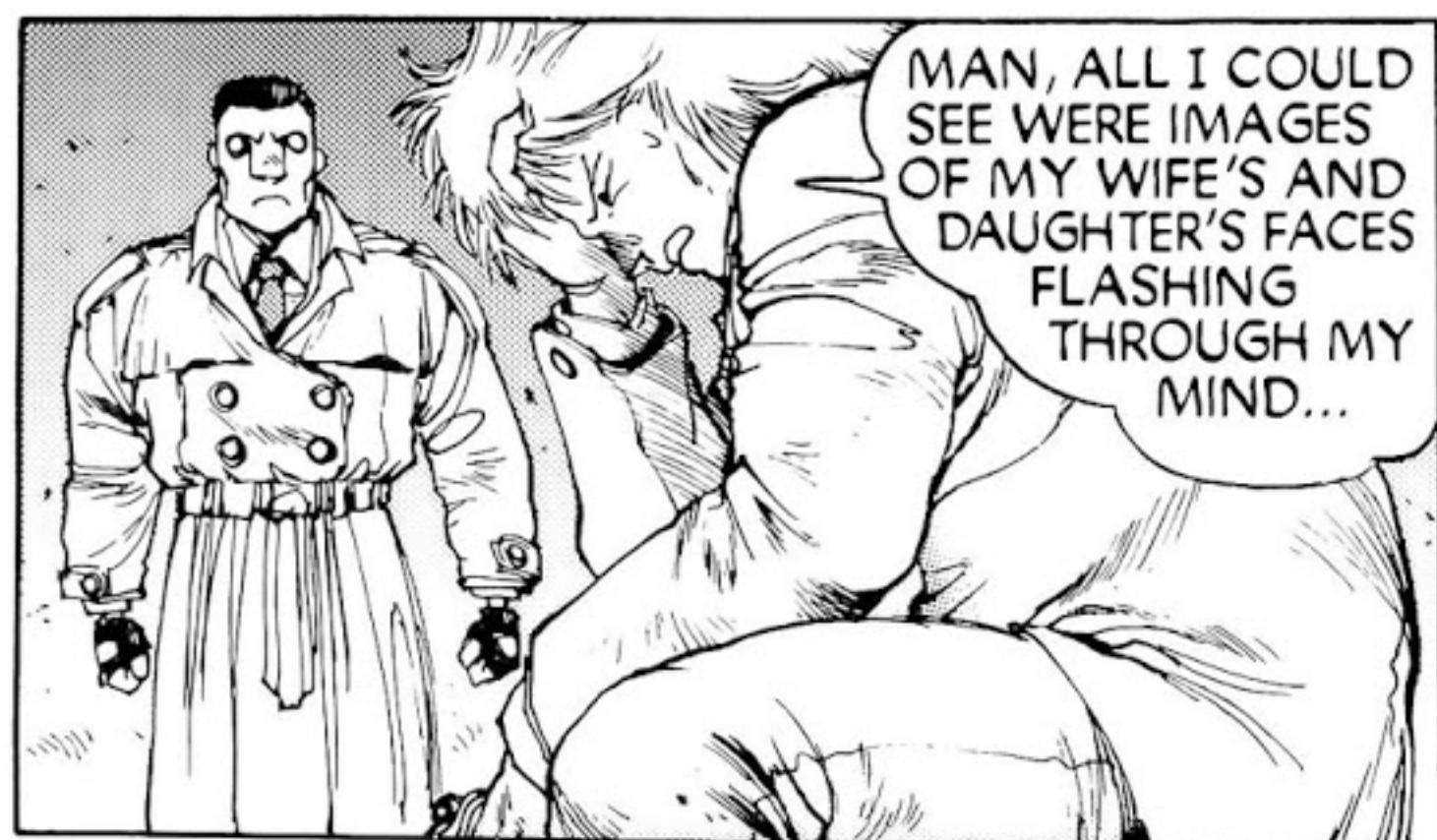
WELL, GOOD WORK. NOW CHECK OUR PERIMETER-- THIS GUY MAY HAVE SOME PALS AROUND. START WITH PHONE BOOTHS AND CARS IN THE AREA.



THE MAJOR TOLD ME TO TAG ALONG AND HELP OUT IF THERE WAS TROUBLE...

FEIGNED MODESTY?

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ANY HELP...
heh heh

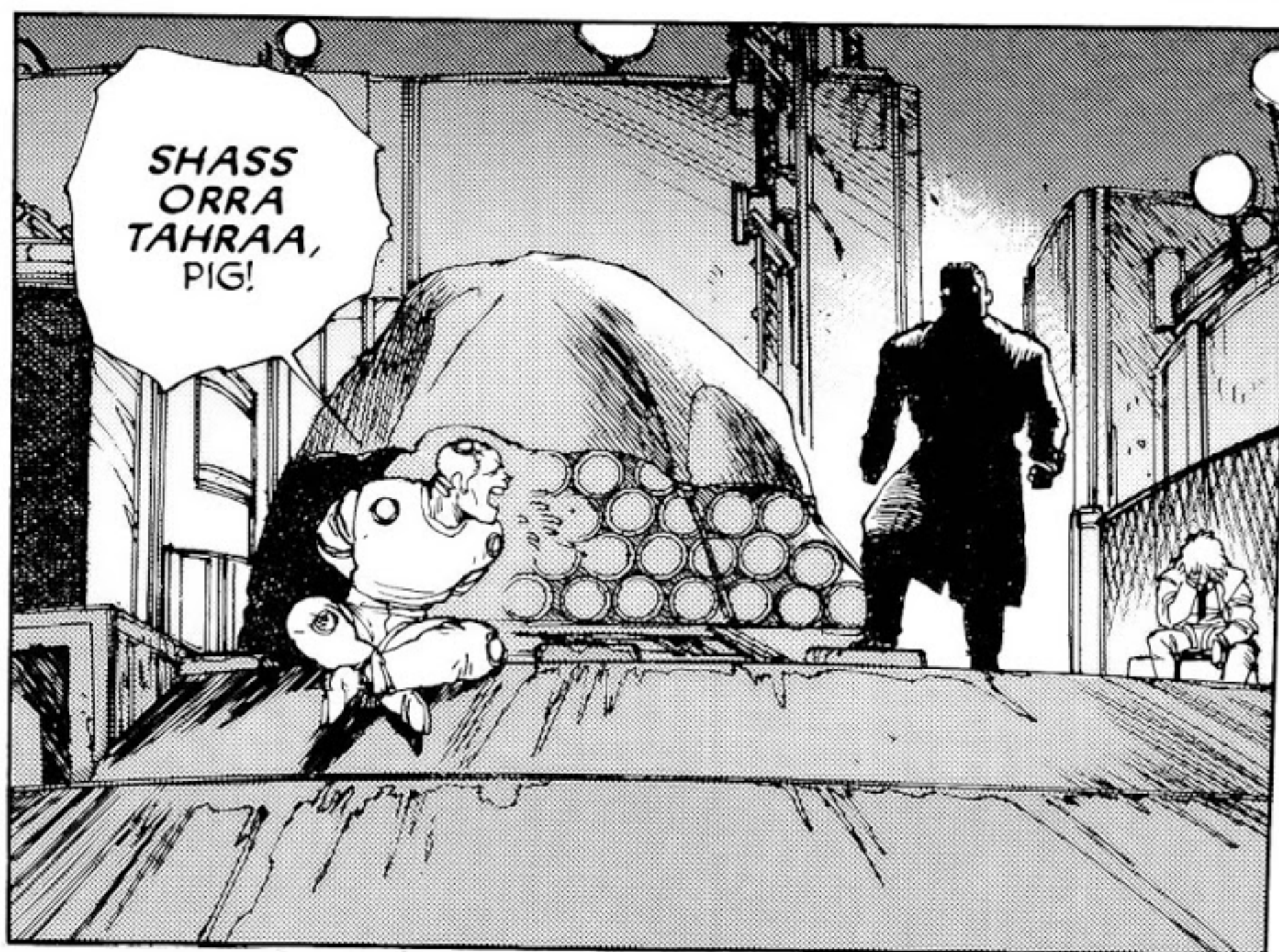


MAN, ALL I COULD SEE WERE IMAGES OF MY WIFE'S AND DAUGHTER'S FACES FLASHING THROUGH MY MIND...



NOT YER WIFE AND KID, PAL.

THOSE WERE THE GODDESSES OF DEATH.

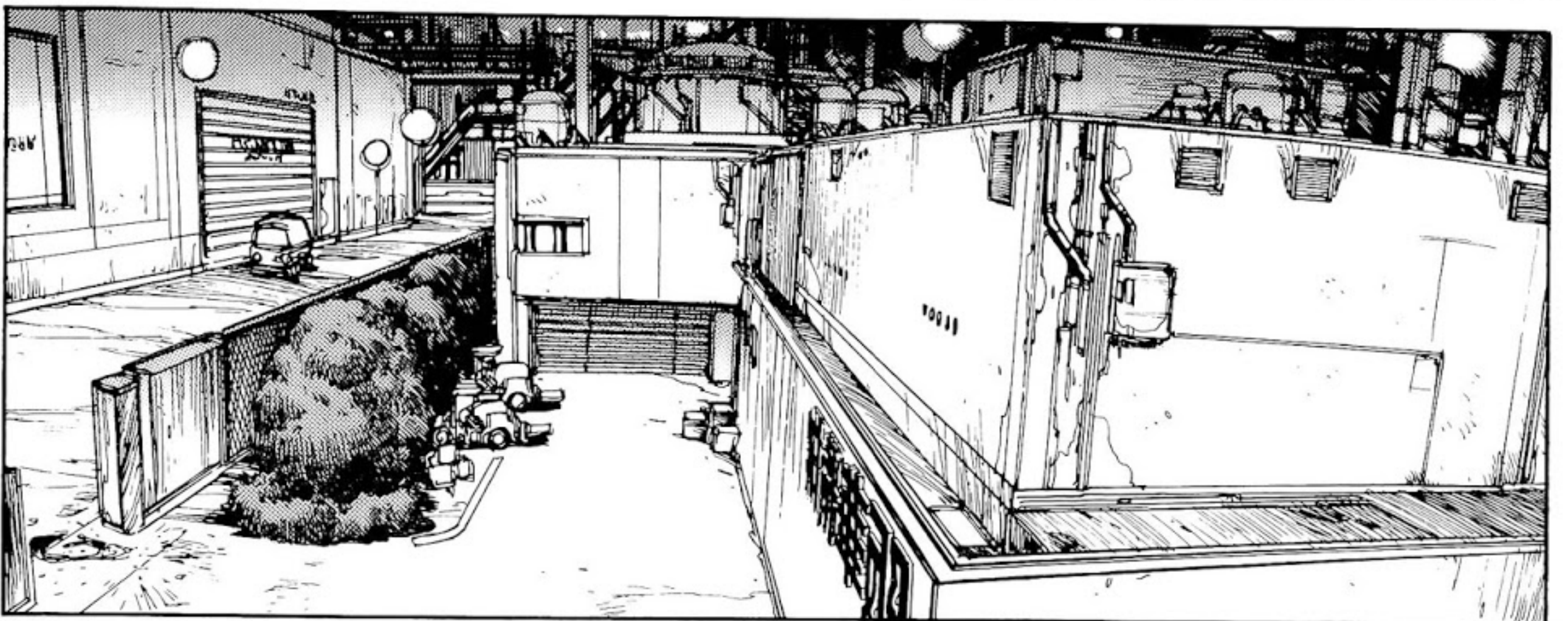
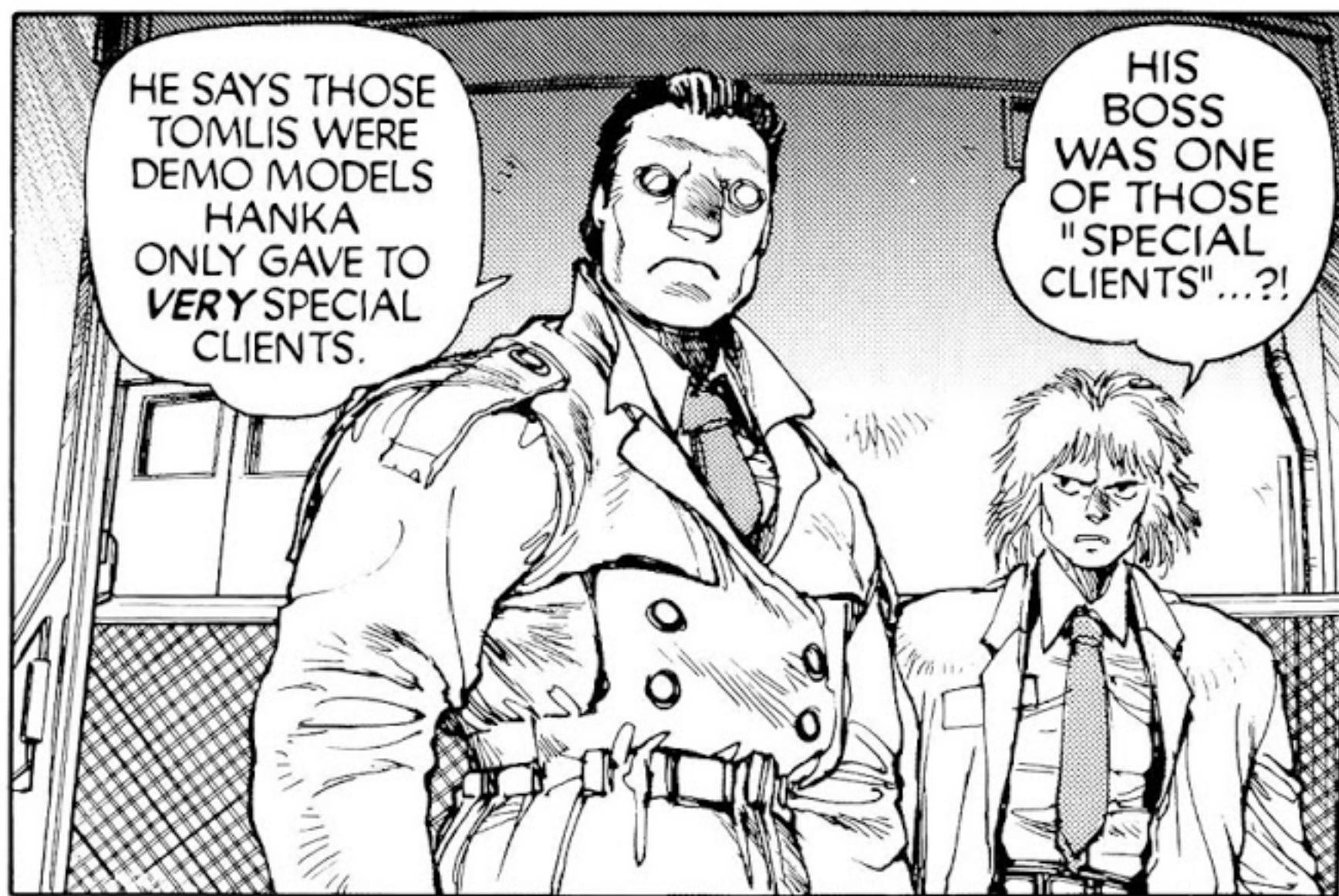


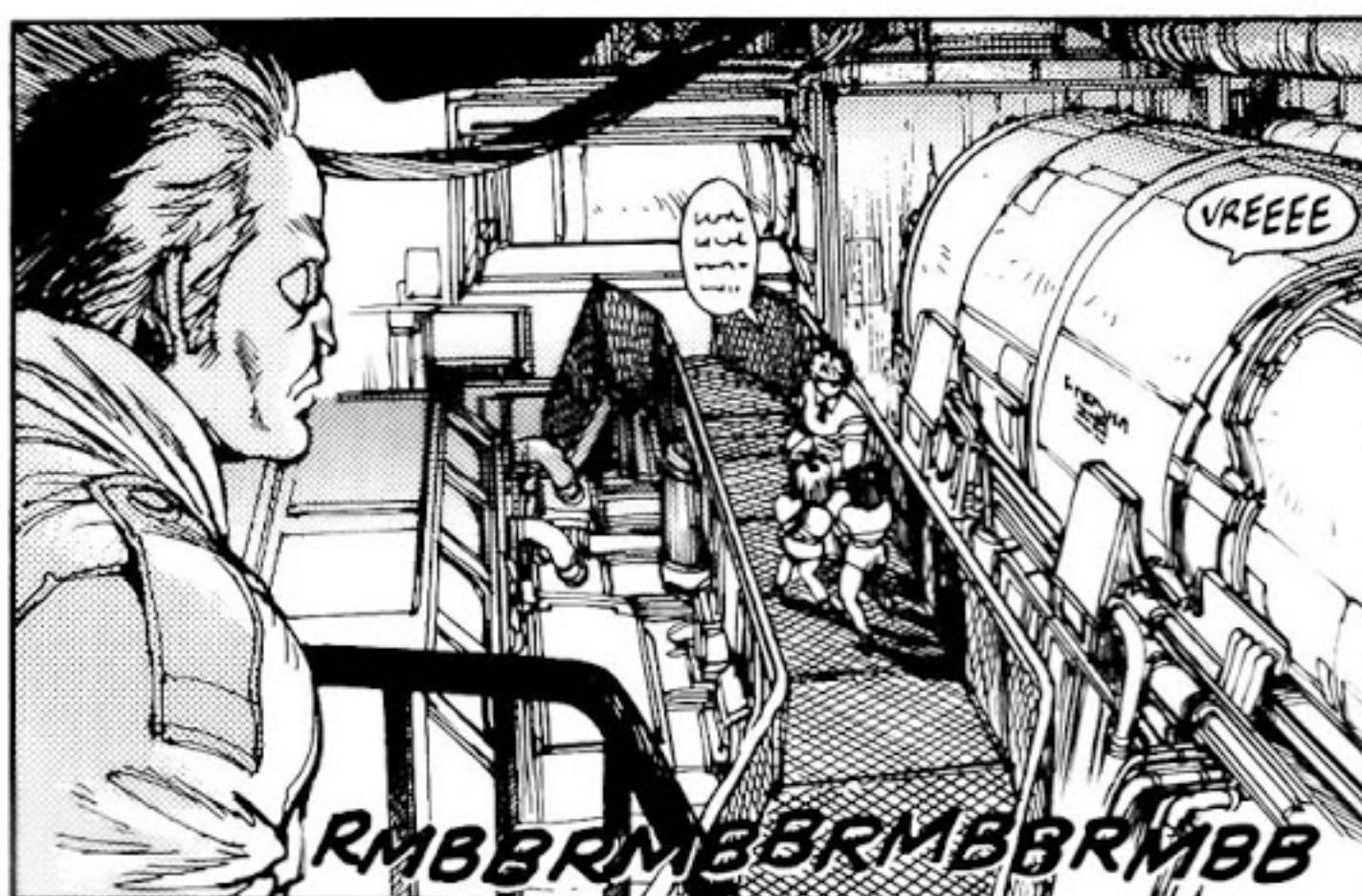
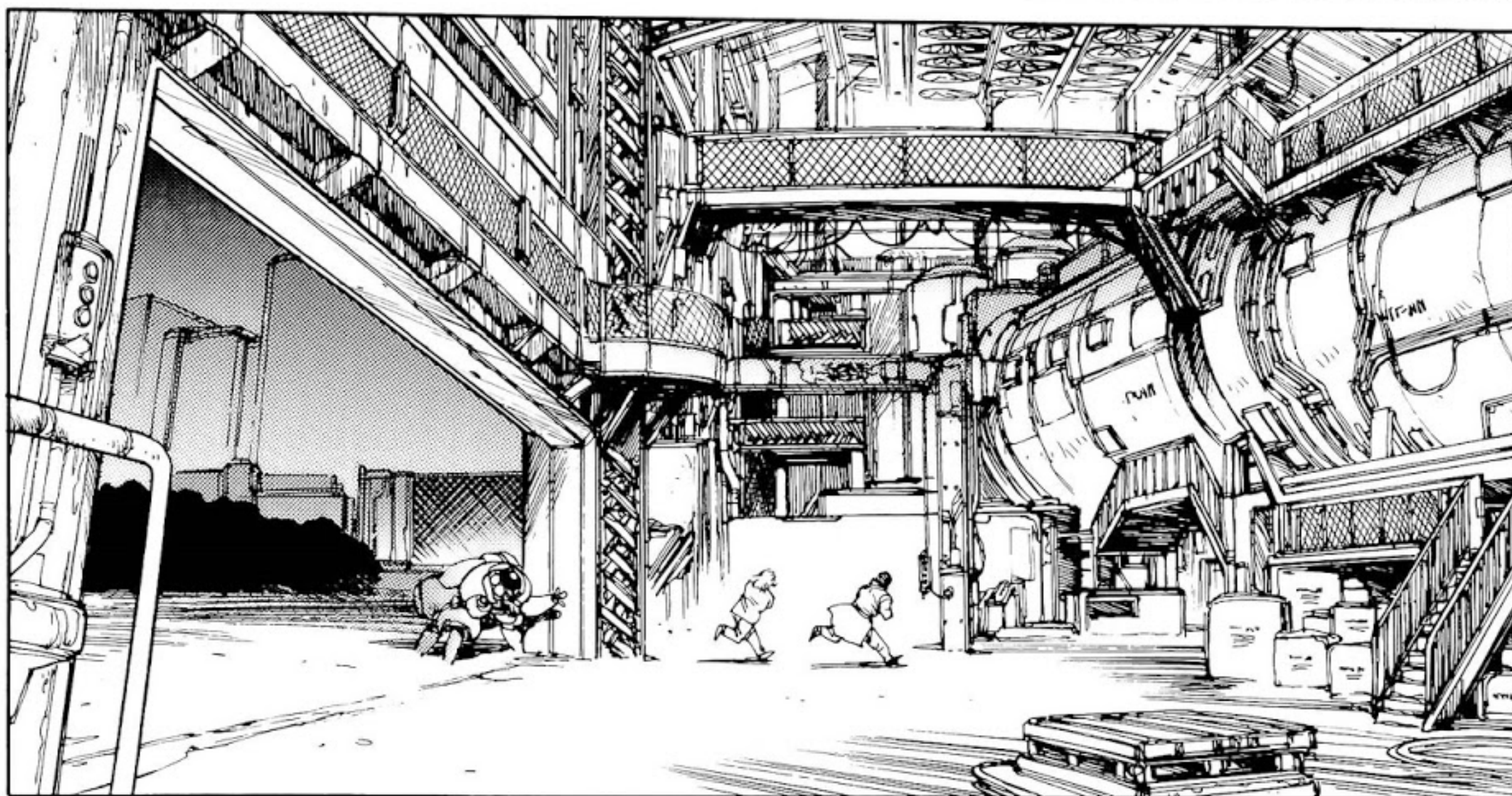
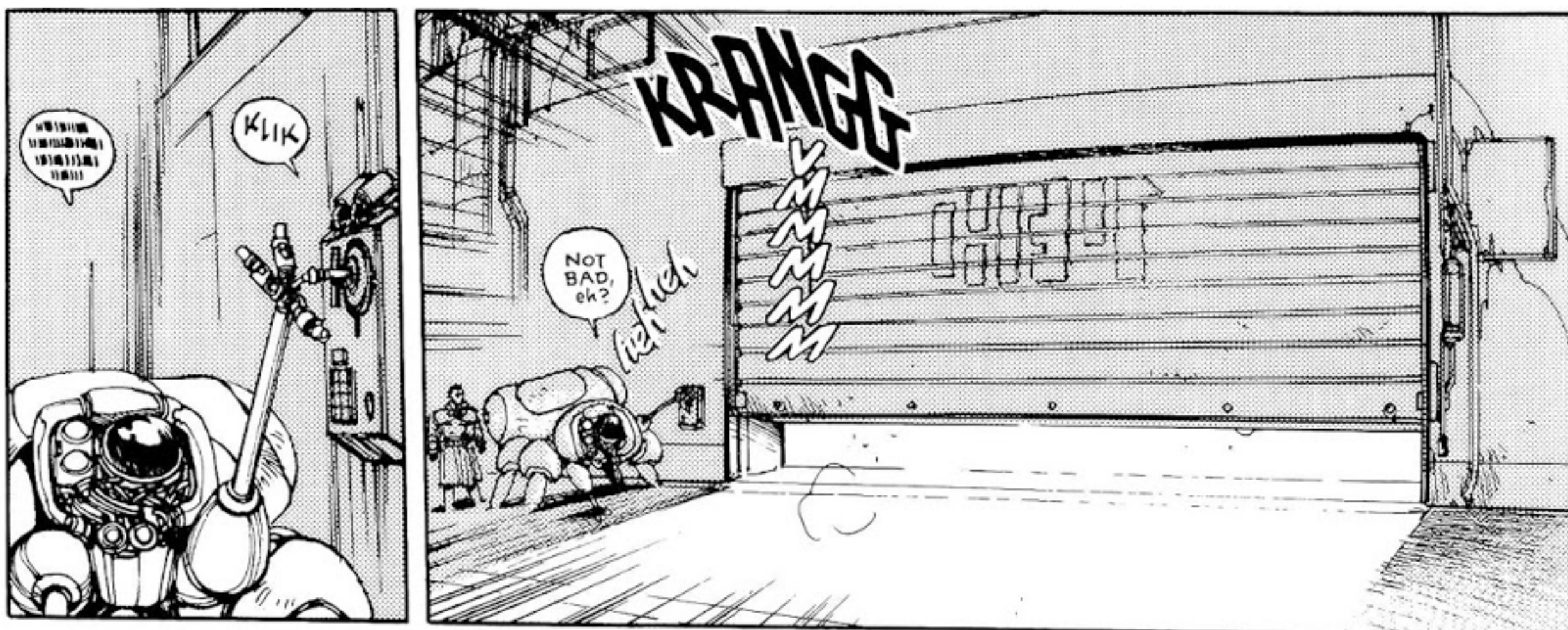
SHASS ORRA TAHRAA, PIG!



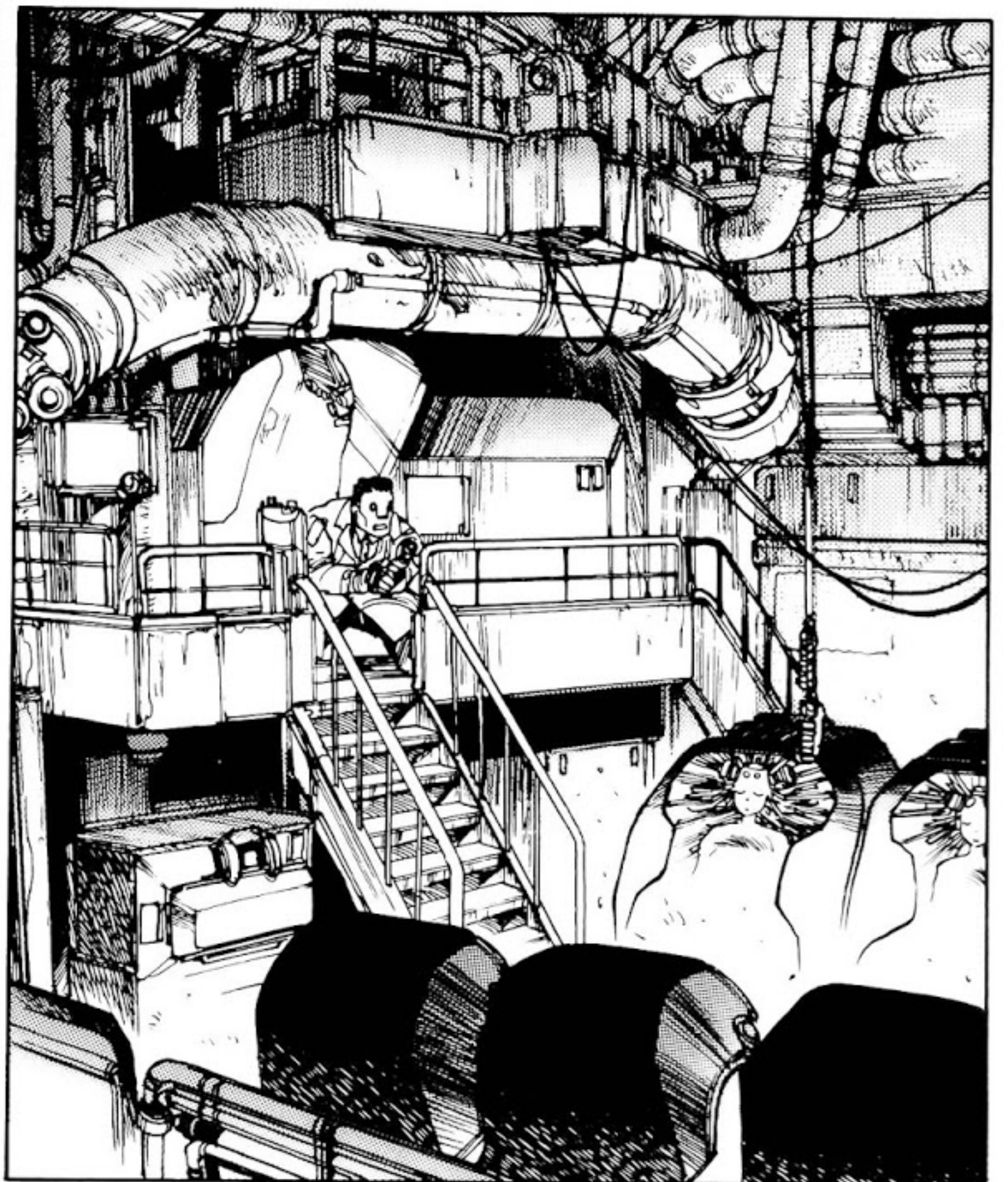
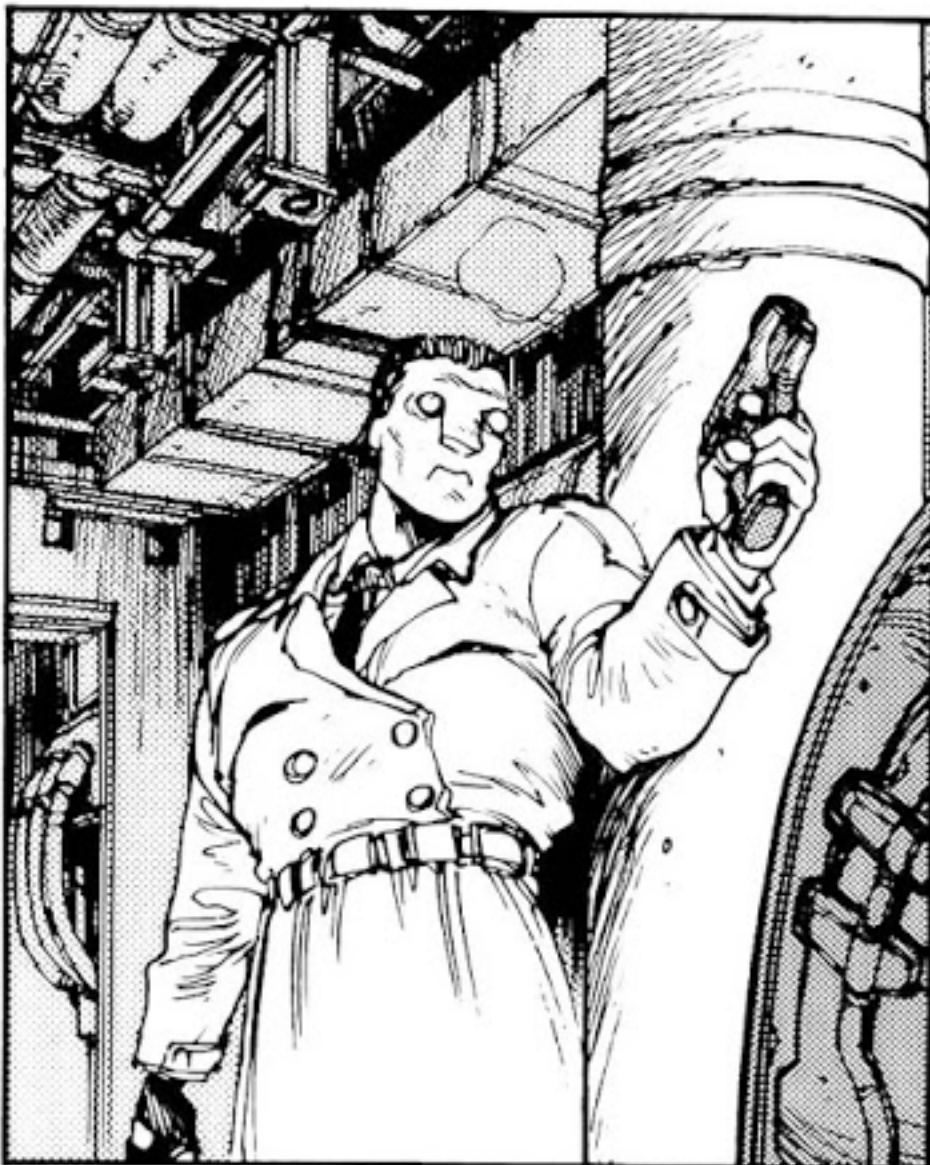
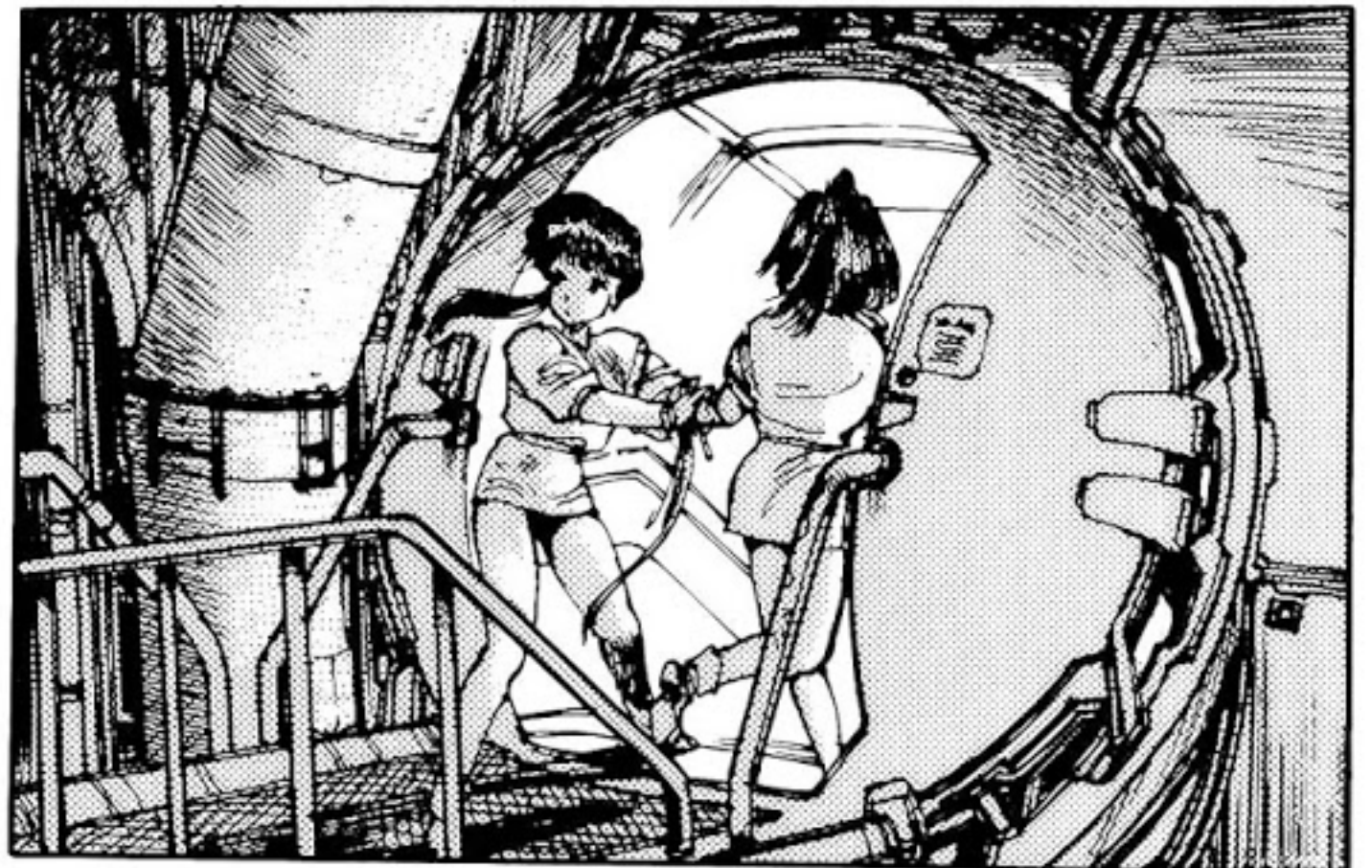
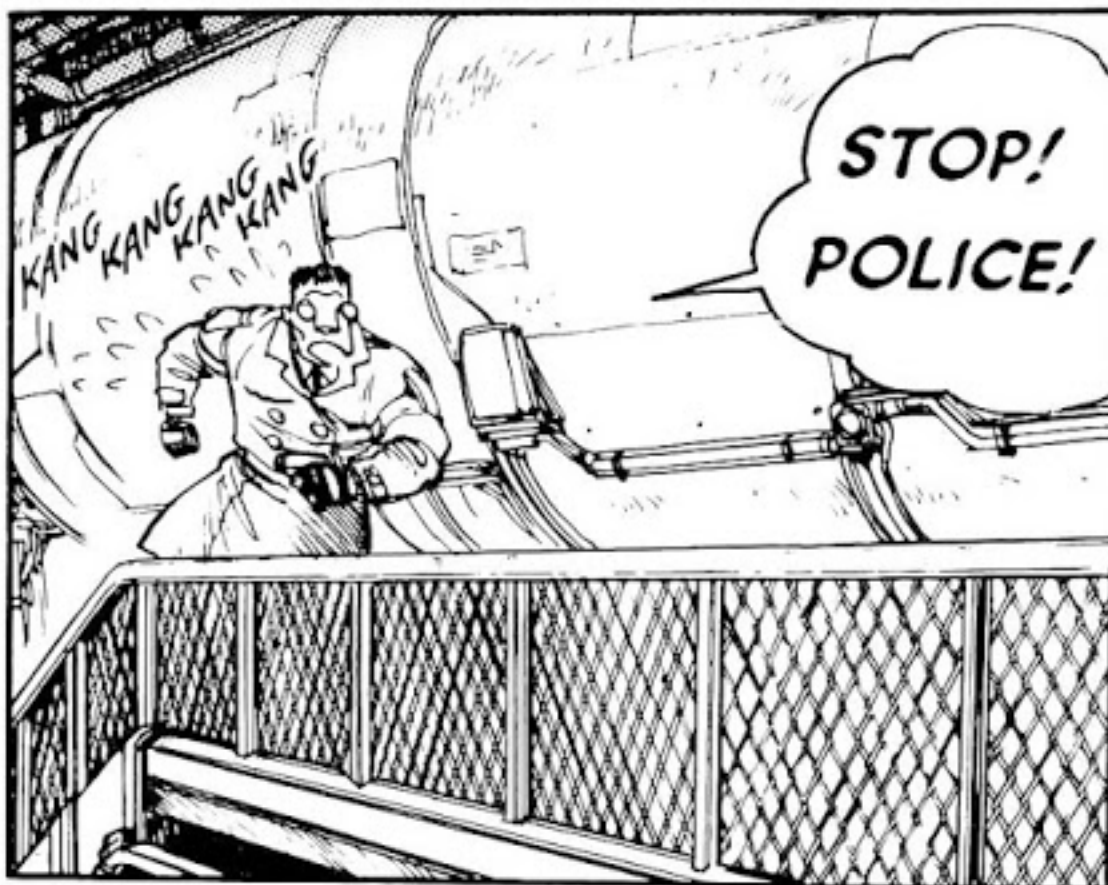
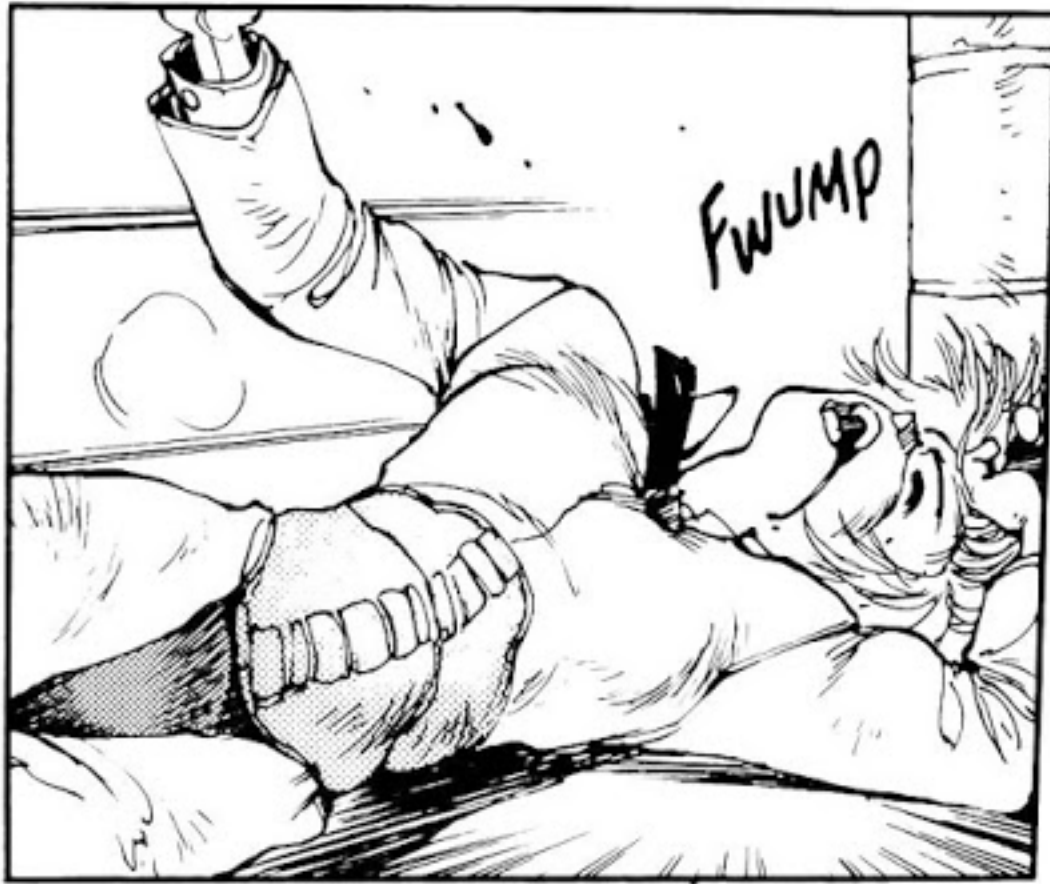
WHEN ME GET OUTTA PRISON, ME GONNA KILL YOU! JUST WAIT, PIG-MAN!

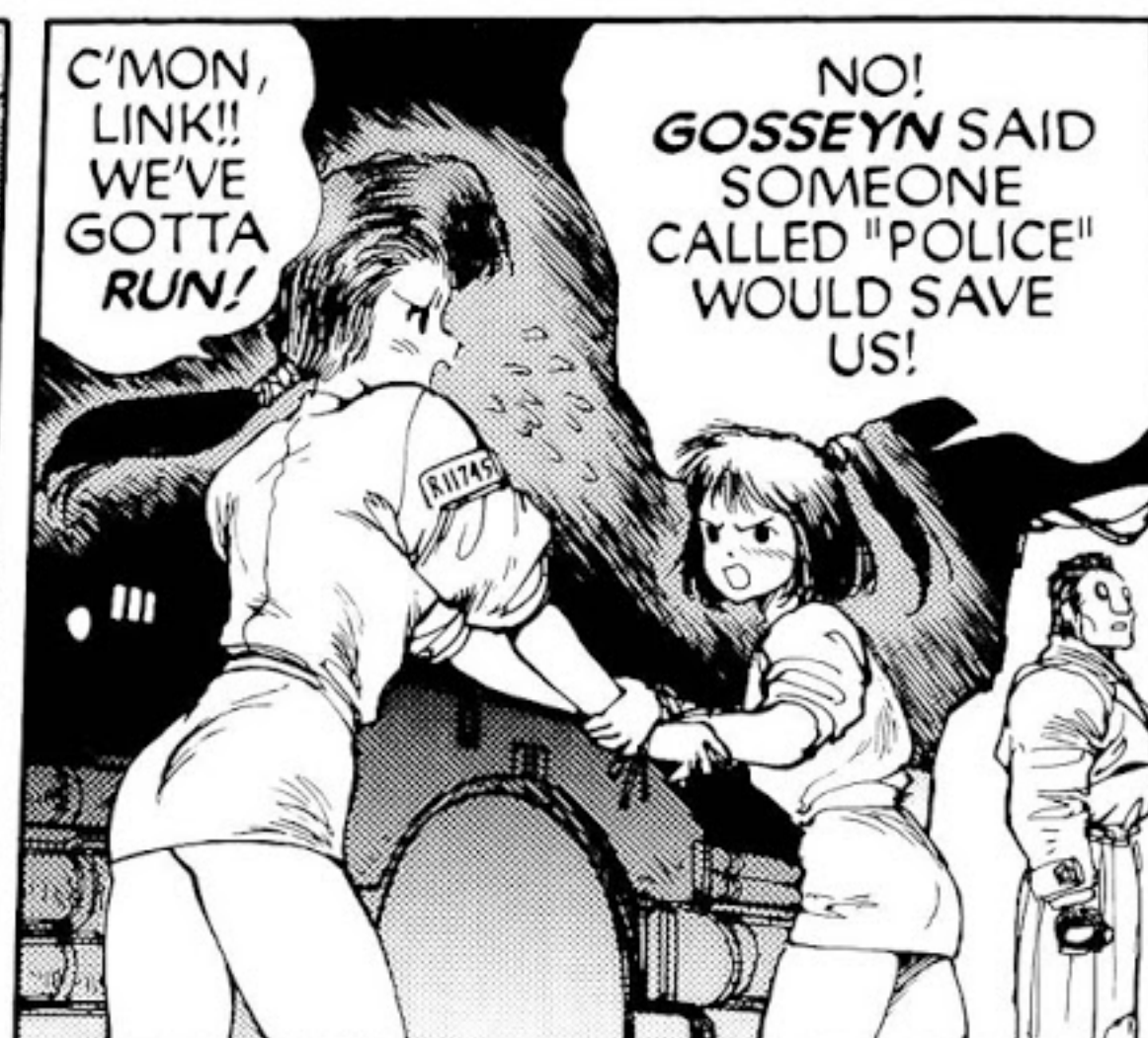
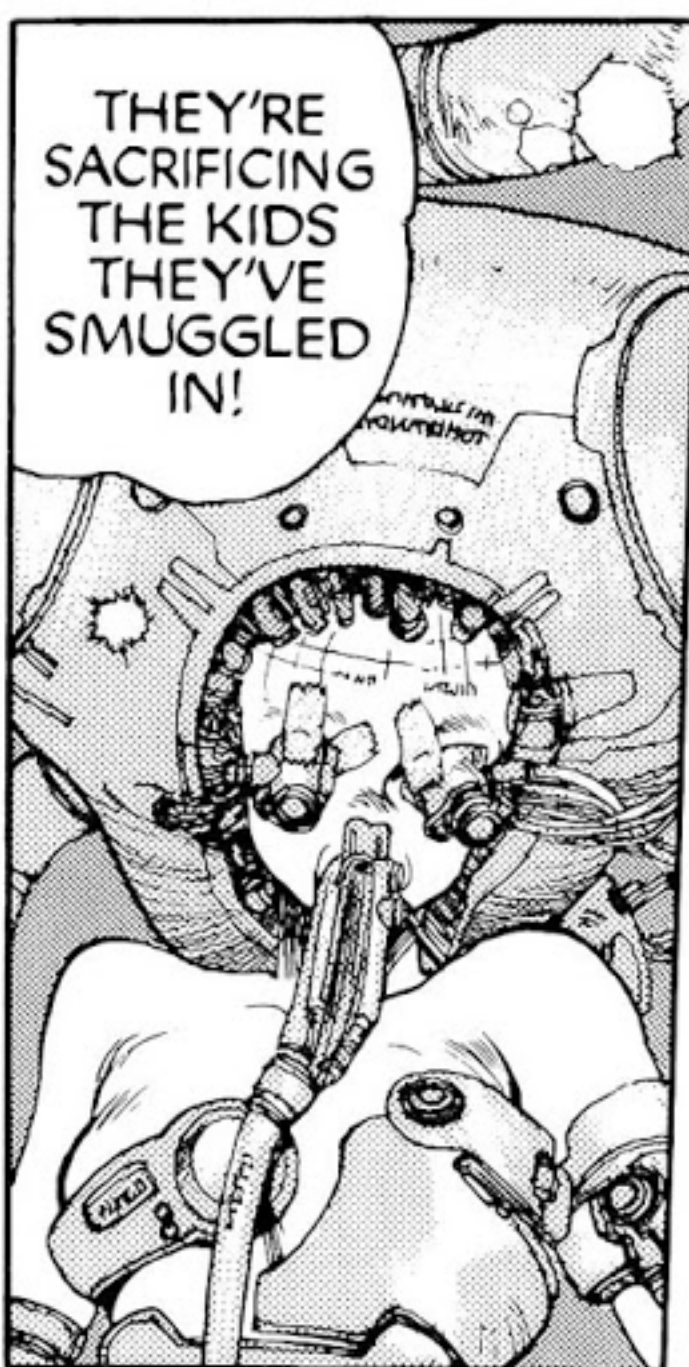
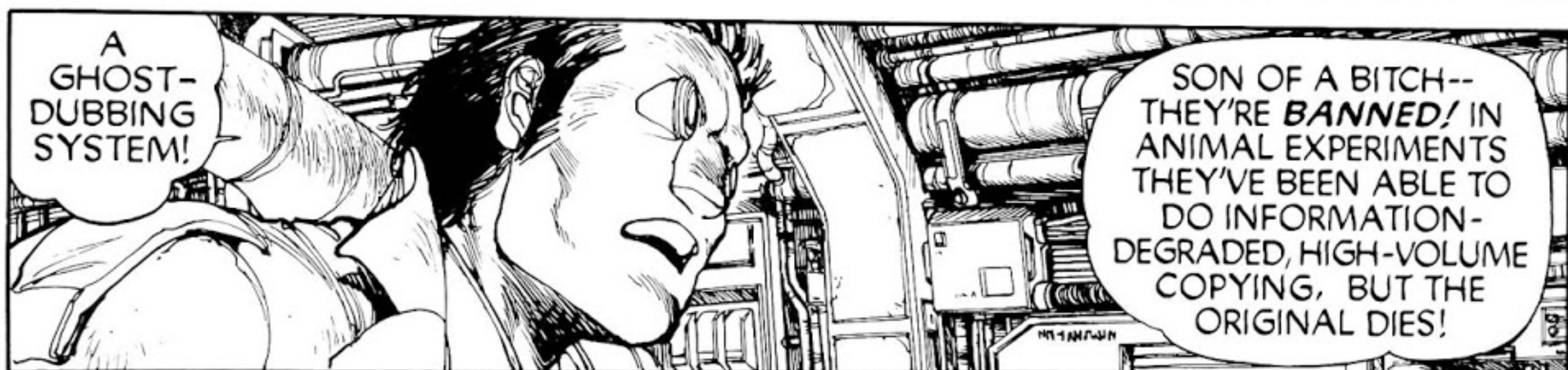
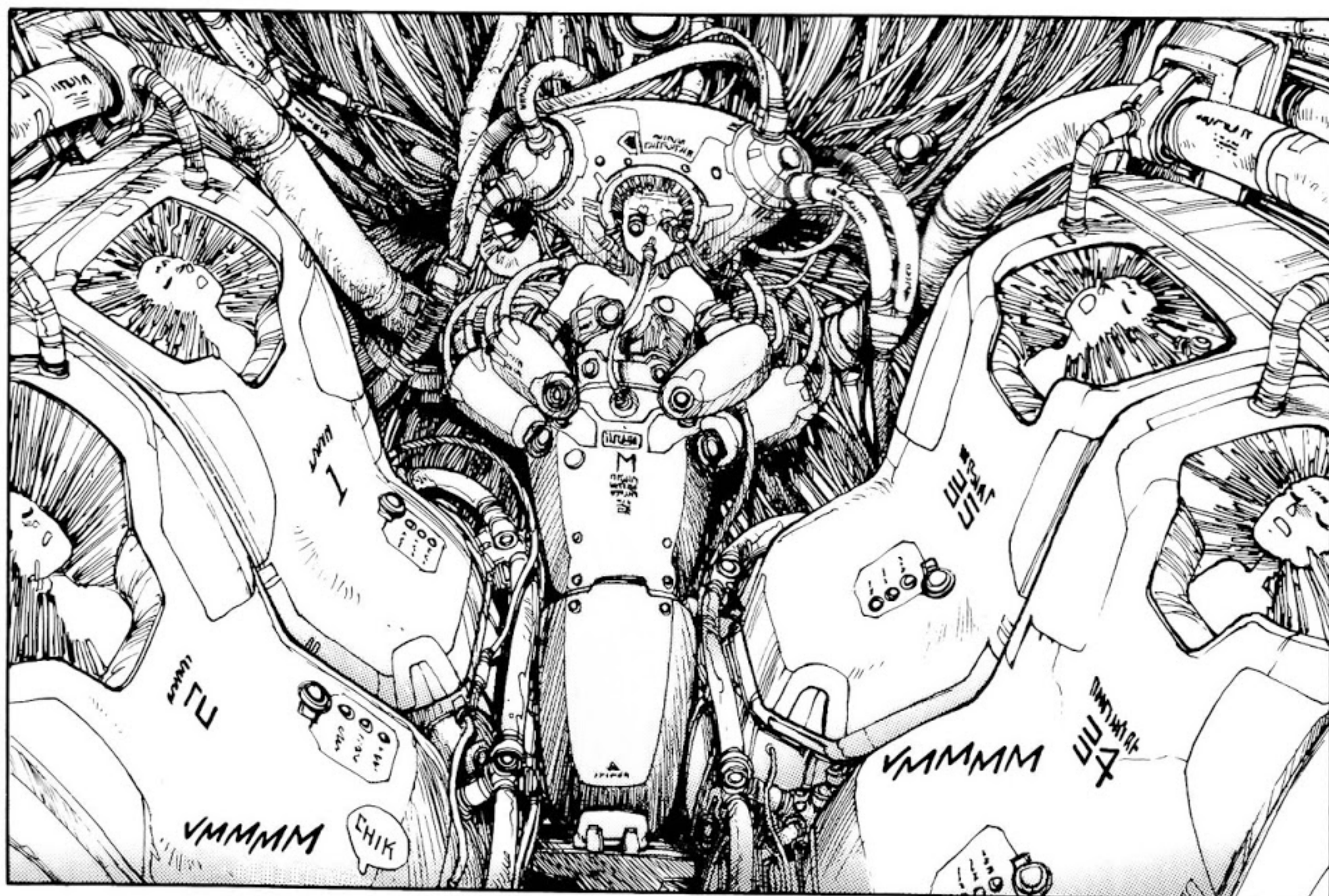


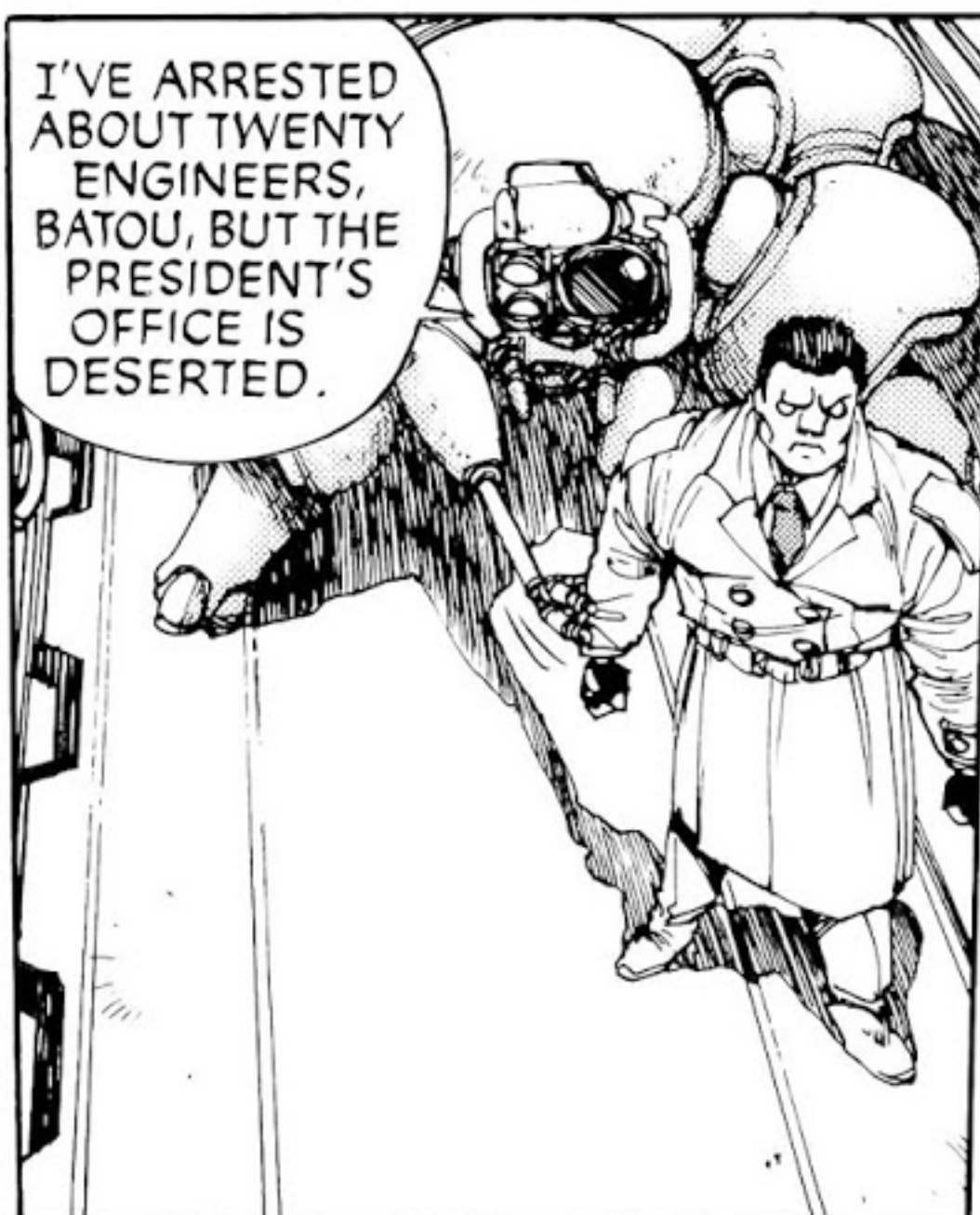
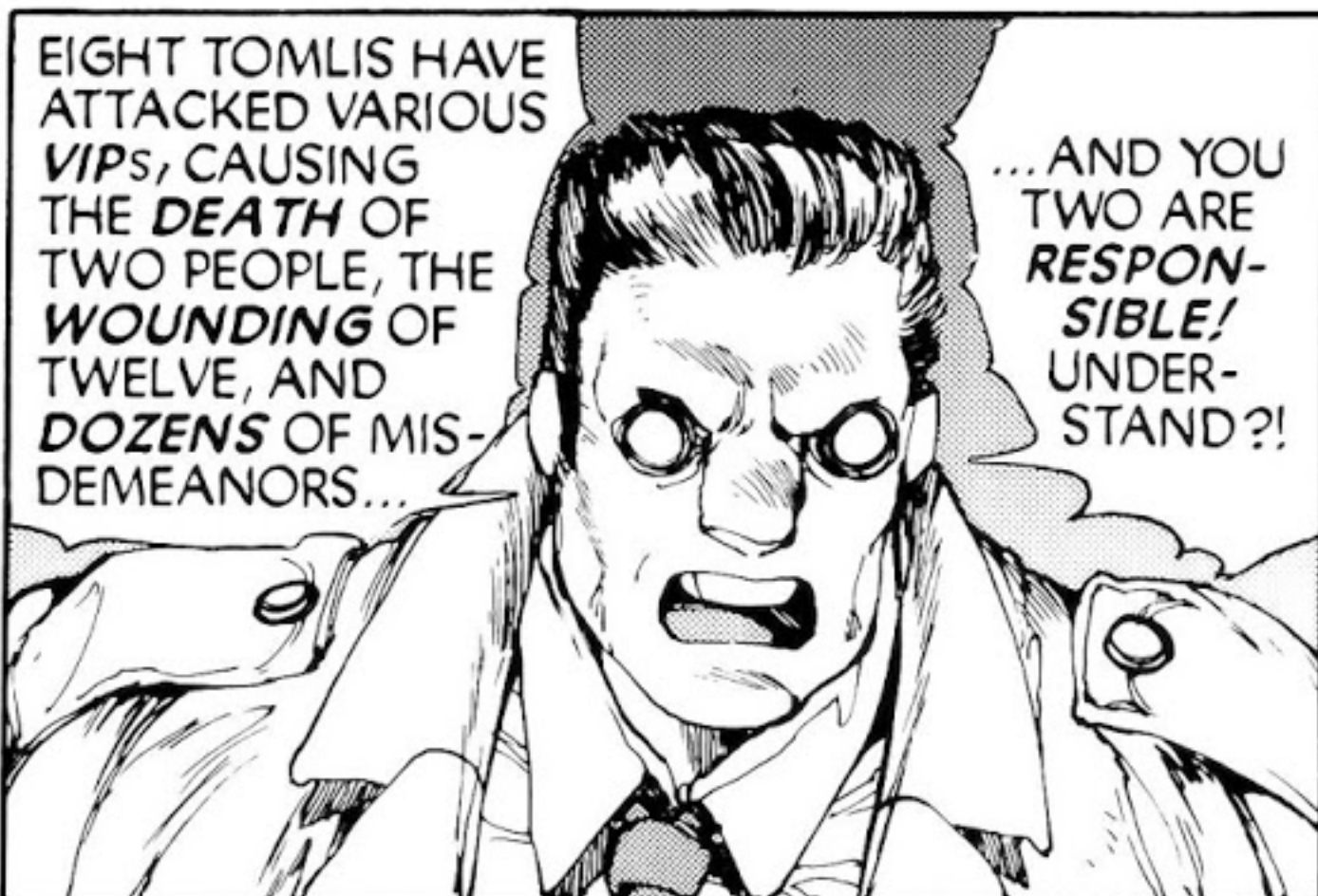
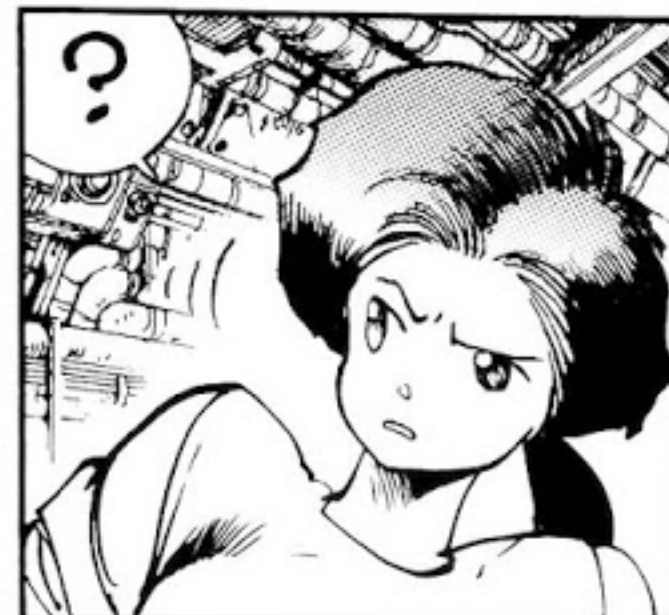
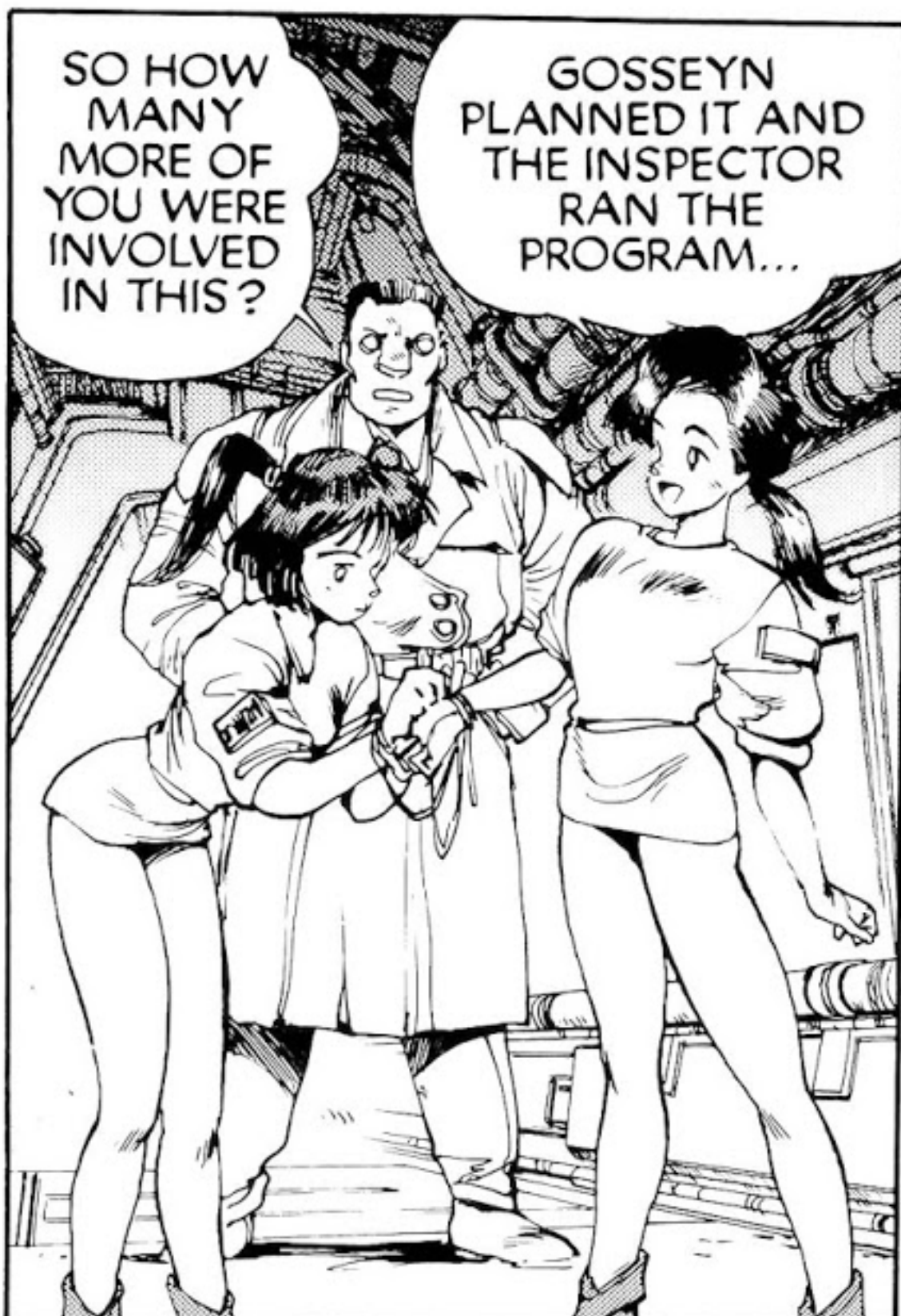


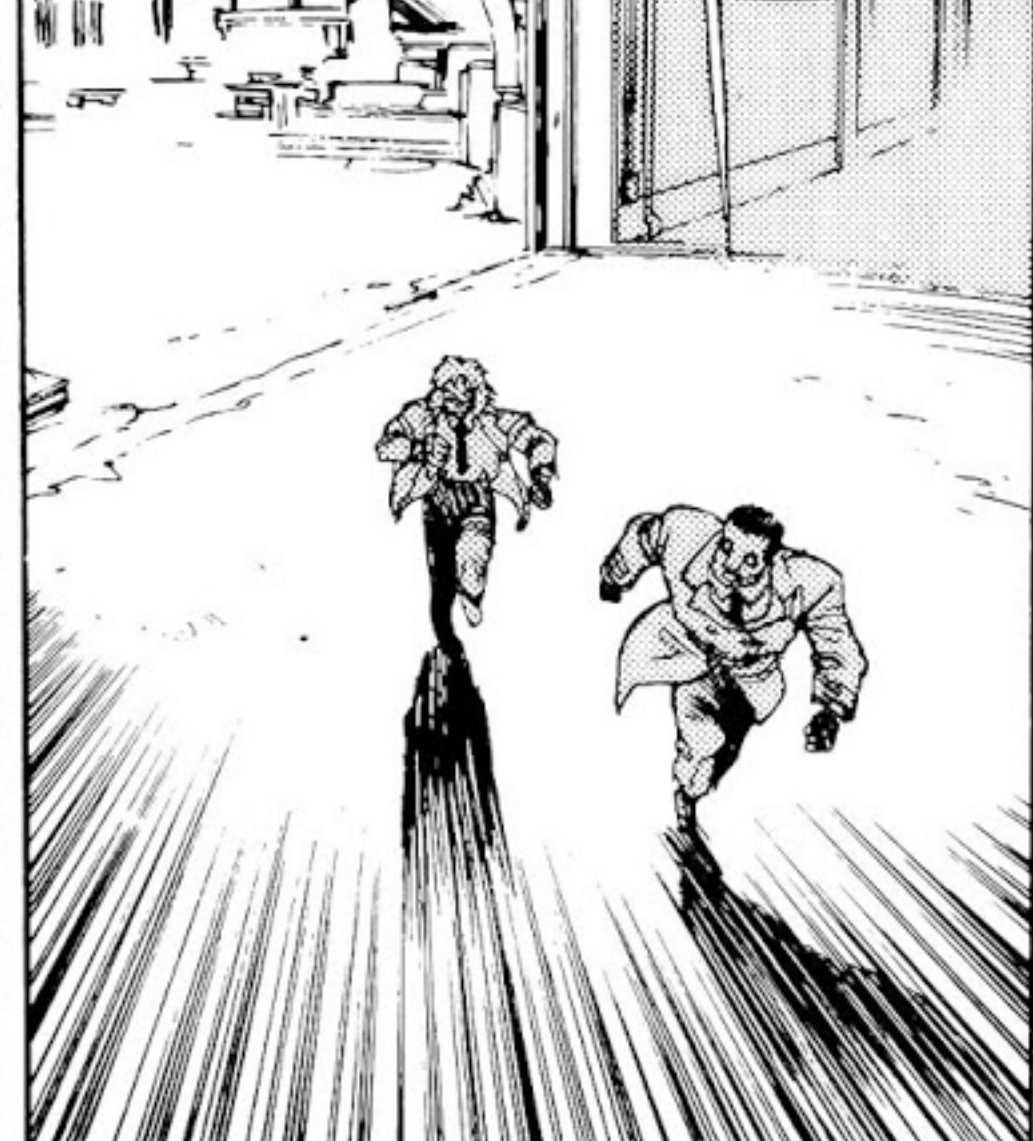
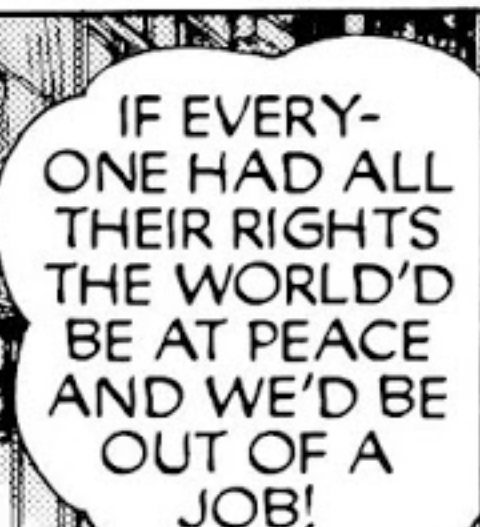
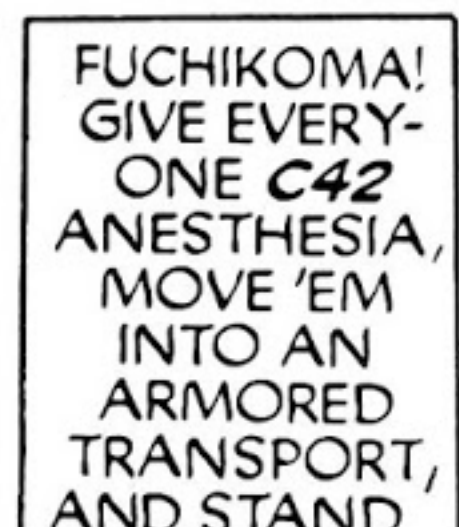
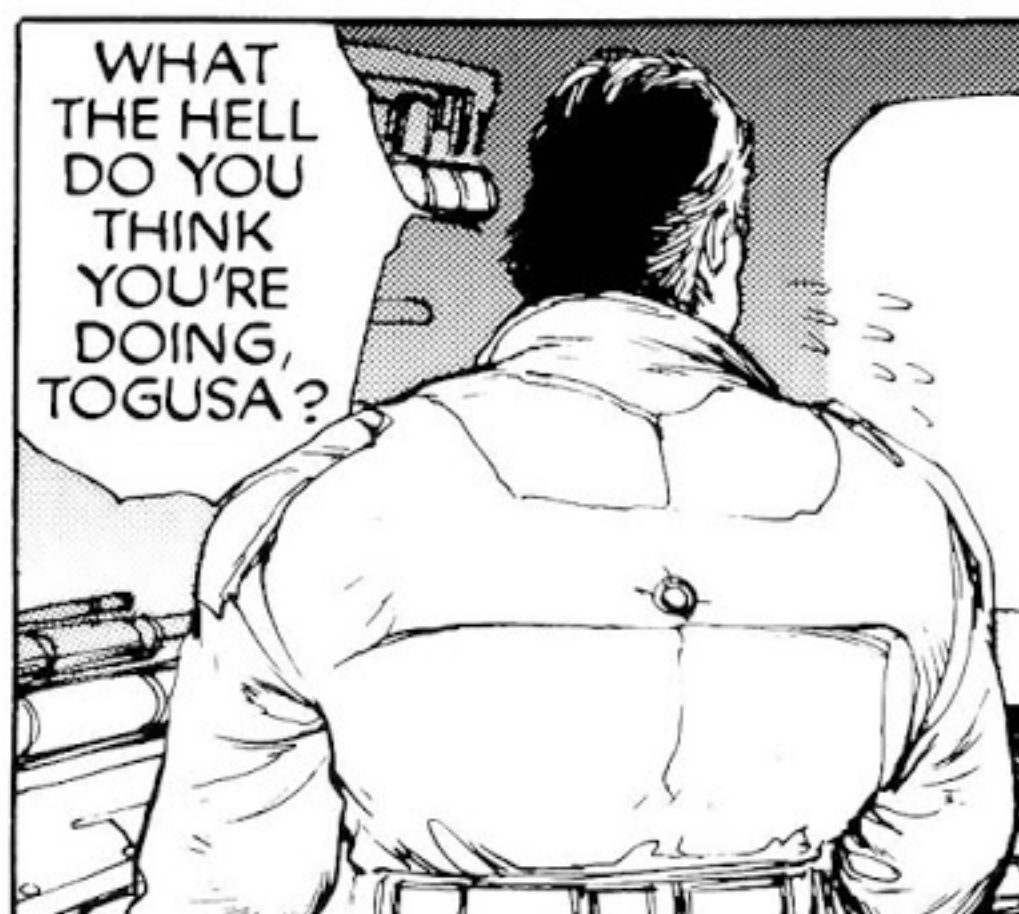
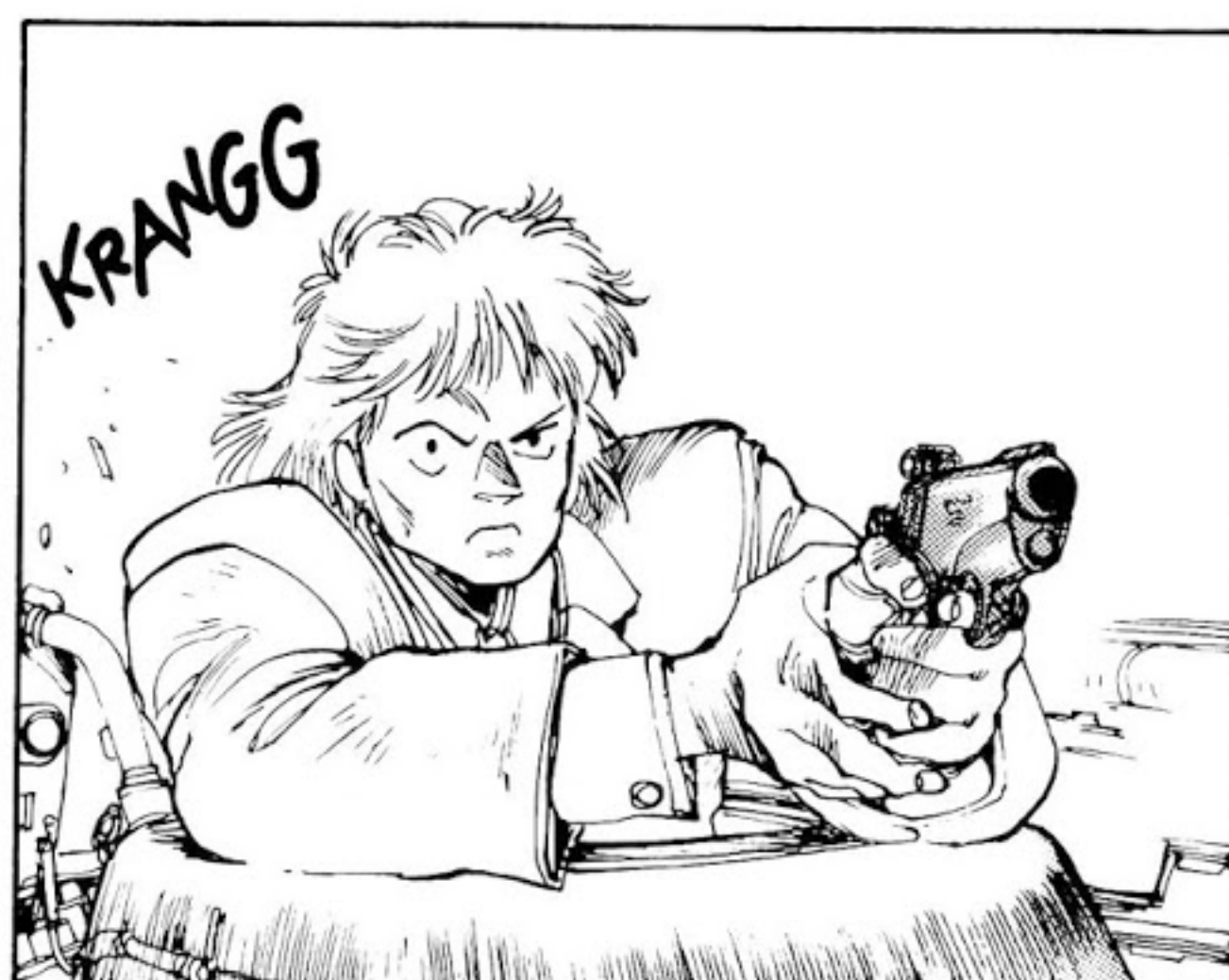
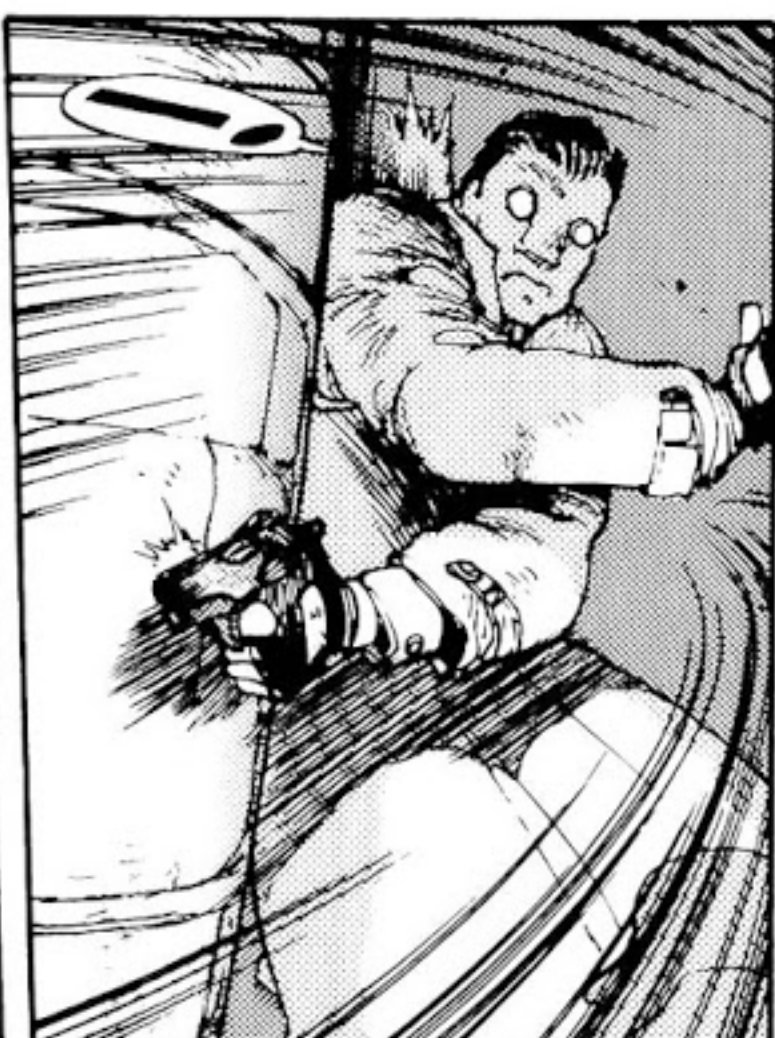


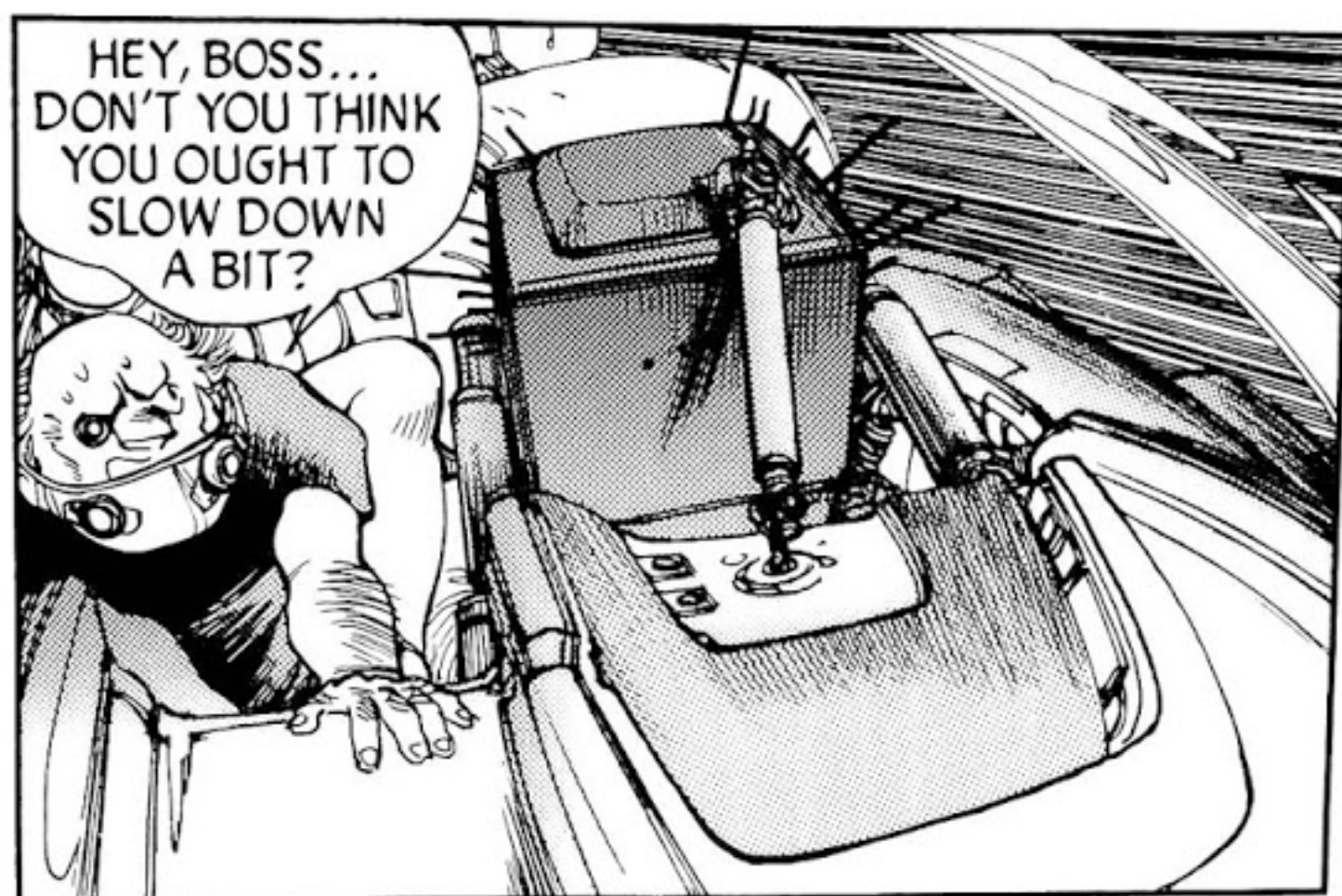
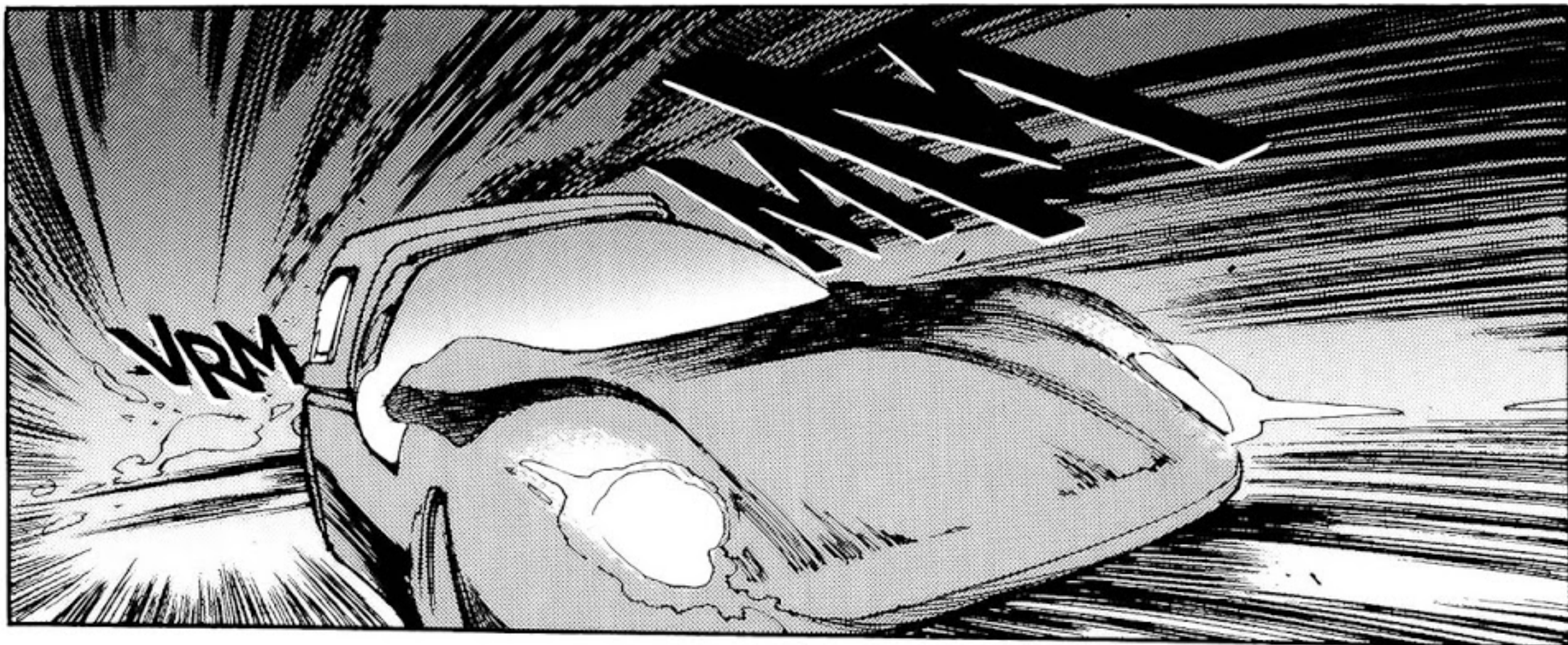




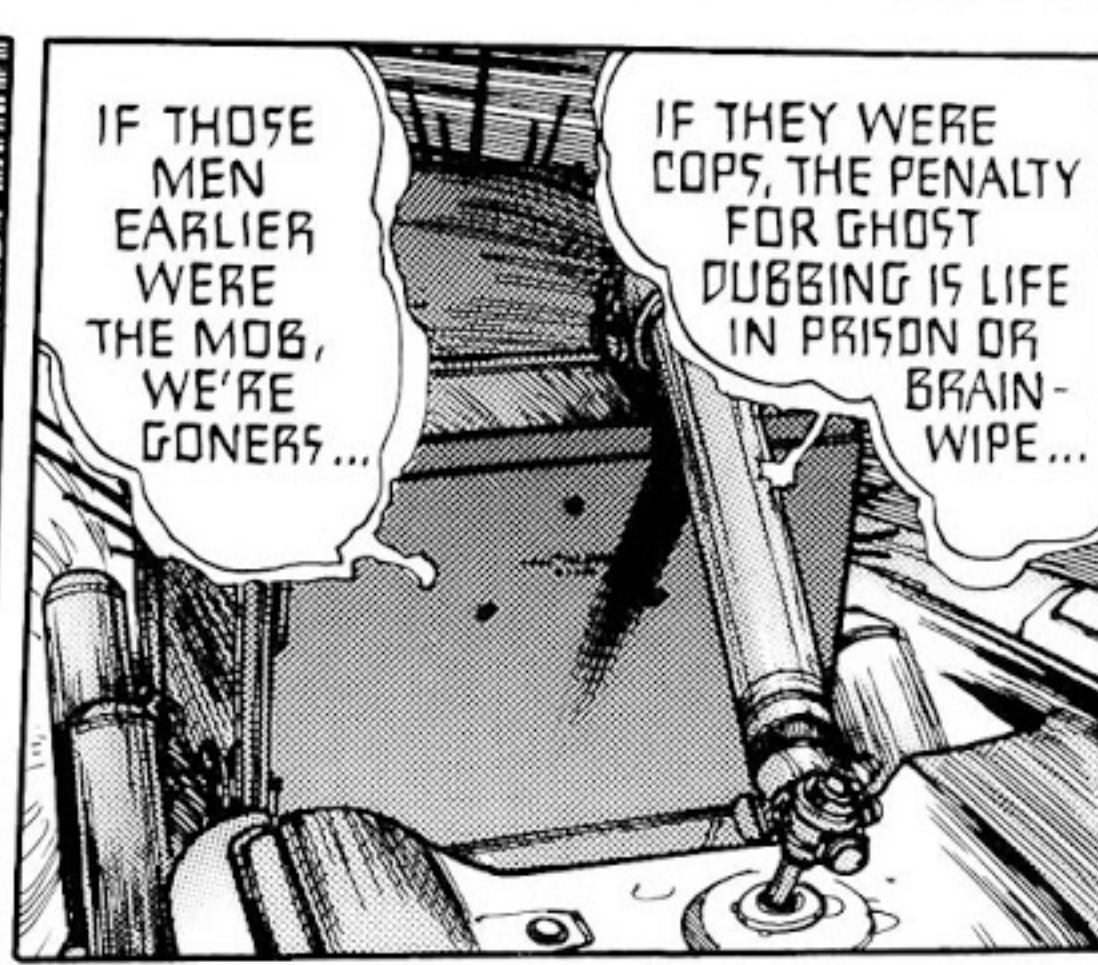








HEY, BOSS...
DON'T YOU THINK
YOU OUGHT TO
SLOW DOWN
A BIT?



IF THOSE
MEN
EARLIER
WERE
THE MOB,
WE'RE
GONERS...

IF THEY WERE
COPS, THE PENALTY
FOR GHOST
DUBBING IS LIFE
IN PRISON OR
BRAIN-
WIPE...



IF YOU'RE SO
WORRIED, WHY'D
YOU BRING ALONG
FIVE ROBOTS?! THIS
IS ONLY A V-8--
IT'LL OVERHEAT!

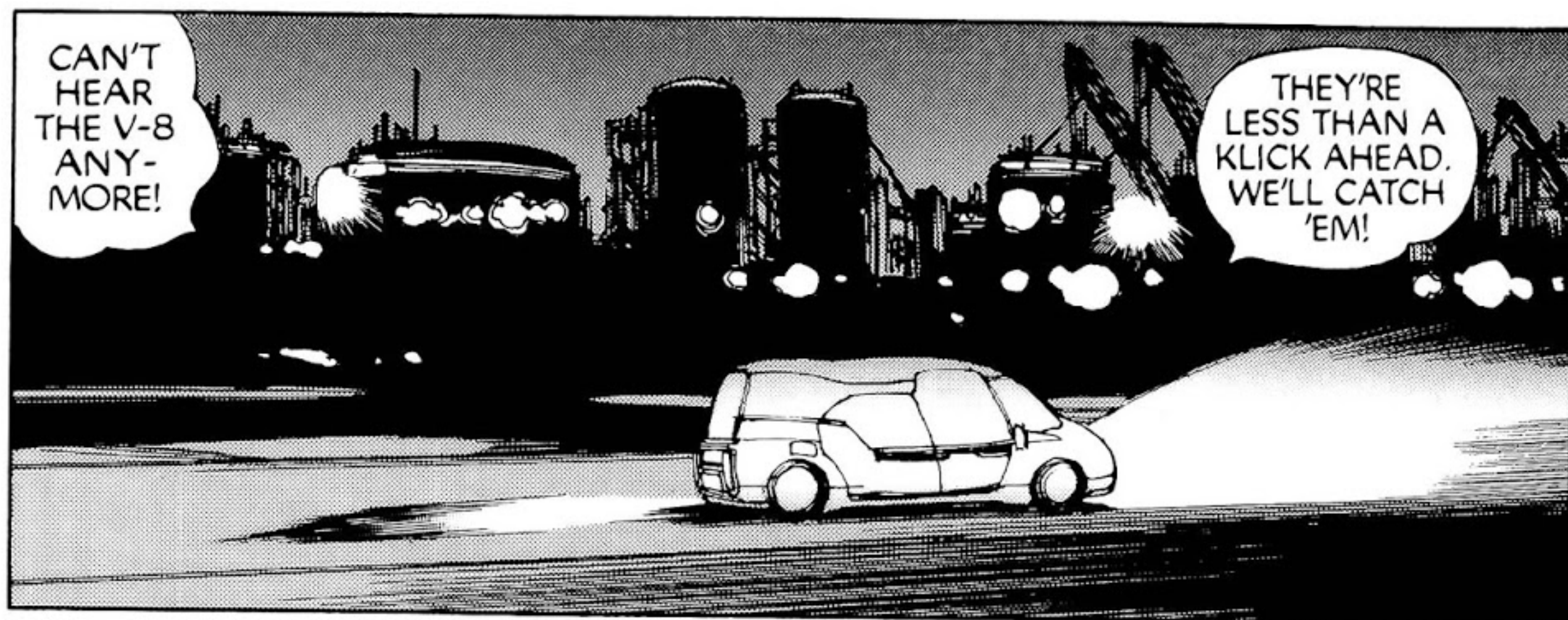
IF THAT'S ALL
YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT, GET OUT!
I CAN REPLACE A
DOCTOR IN THREE
DAYS, BUT NOT
THESE
ROBOTS.



I NEED THEM
TO MAKE ENOUGH
MONEY SO I
CAN REACH A
SETTLEMENT WITH
THE MOB... OR
THE COPS,
IF I
HAVE
TO...







CAN'T
HEAR
THE V-8
ANY-
MORE!

THEY'RE
LESS THAN A
Klick AHEAD.
WE'LL CATCH
'EM!



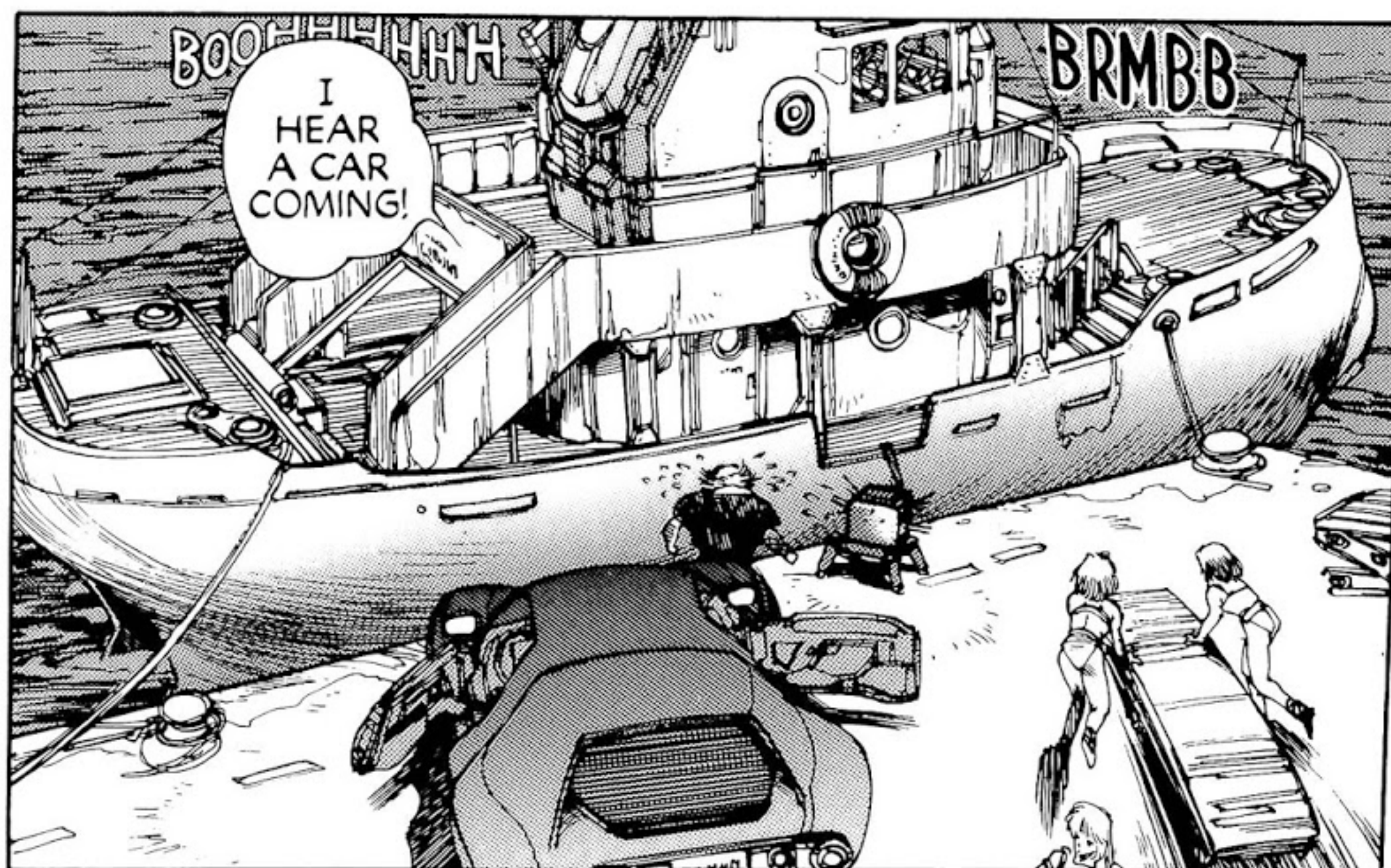
GIVEN THE
SPEED THEY'RE
DRIVING AT AND
THE WAY THE EN-
GINE IS LABORING,
I'D SAY THEY'VE
GOT SEVERAL
ROBOTS WITH
'EM.

PUT
ON YOUR
BUZZ-
KNUCKS!

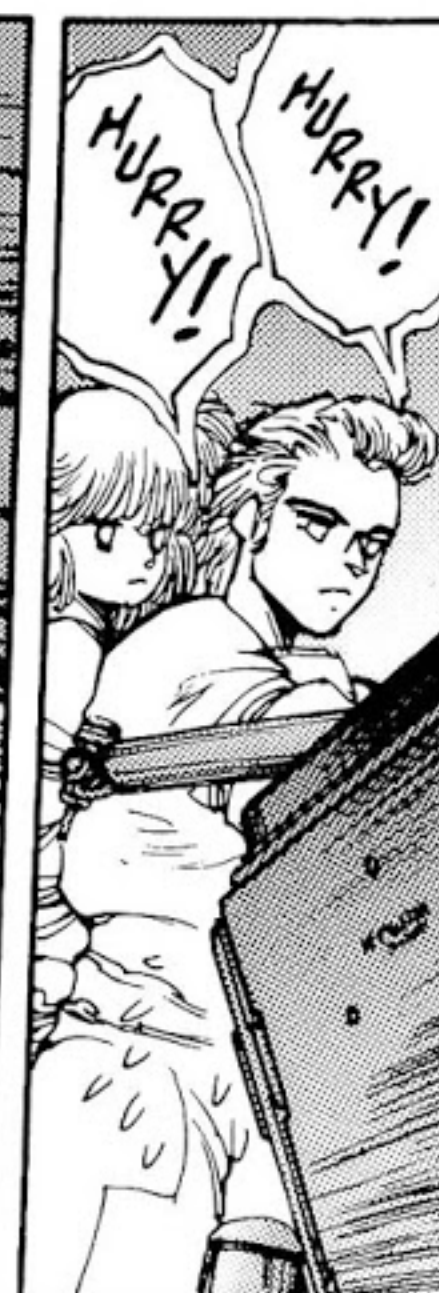


I DON'T LIKE
THE SHOCK
THIS PAIR
GIVES OFF...

MAYBE
SWEET
MAYUMI IN
ORDNANCE
DON'T LIKE
YOU ANY-
MORE...



I
HEAR
A CAR
COMING!



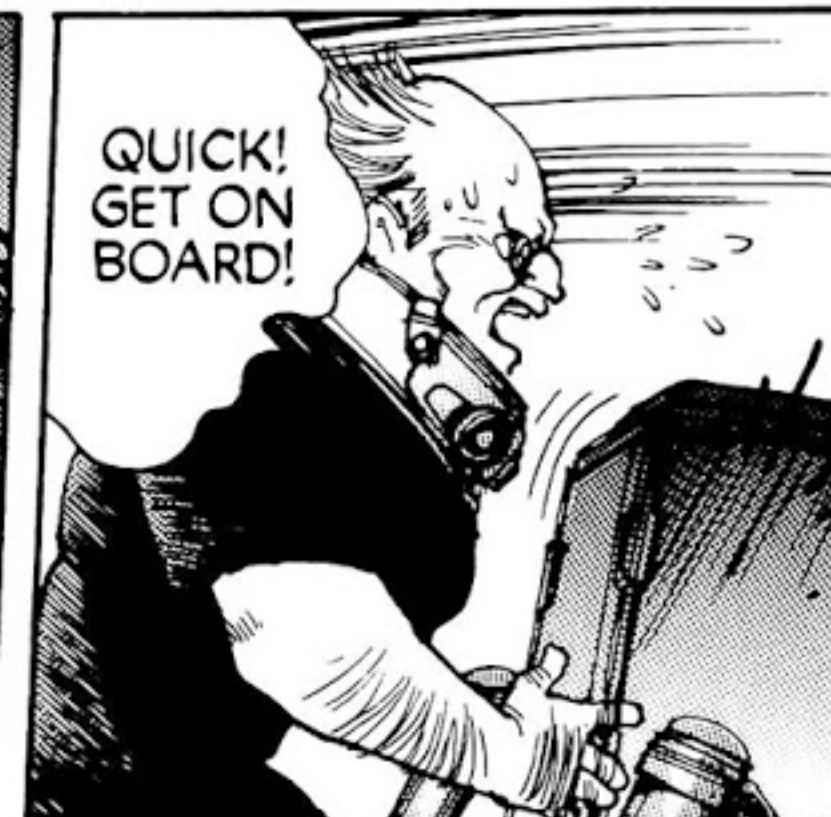
HURRY!
HURRY!

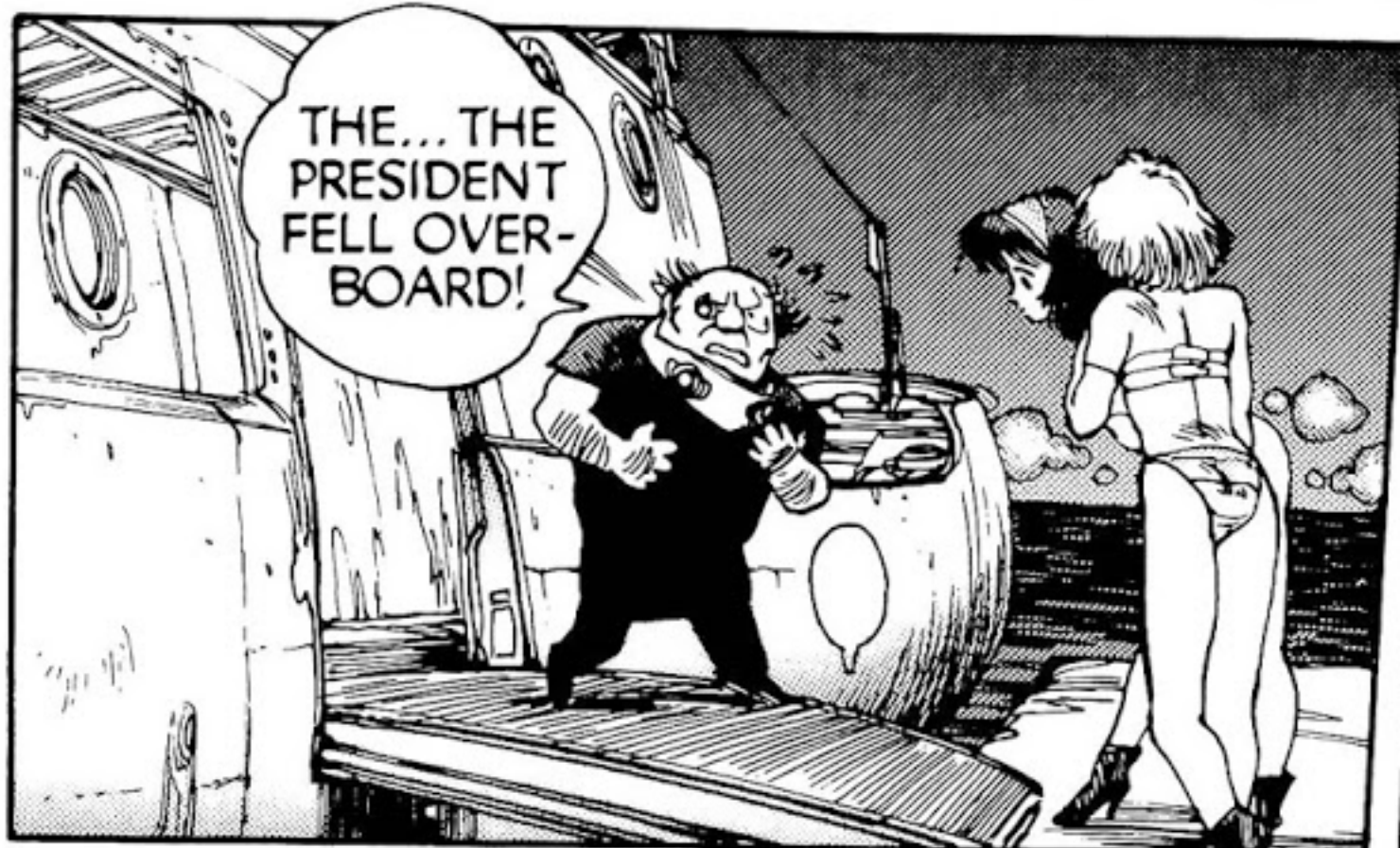
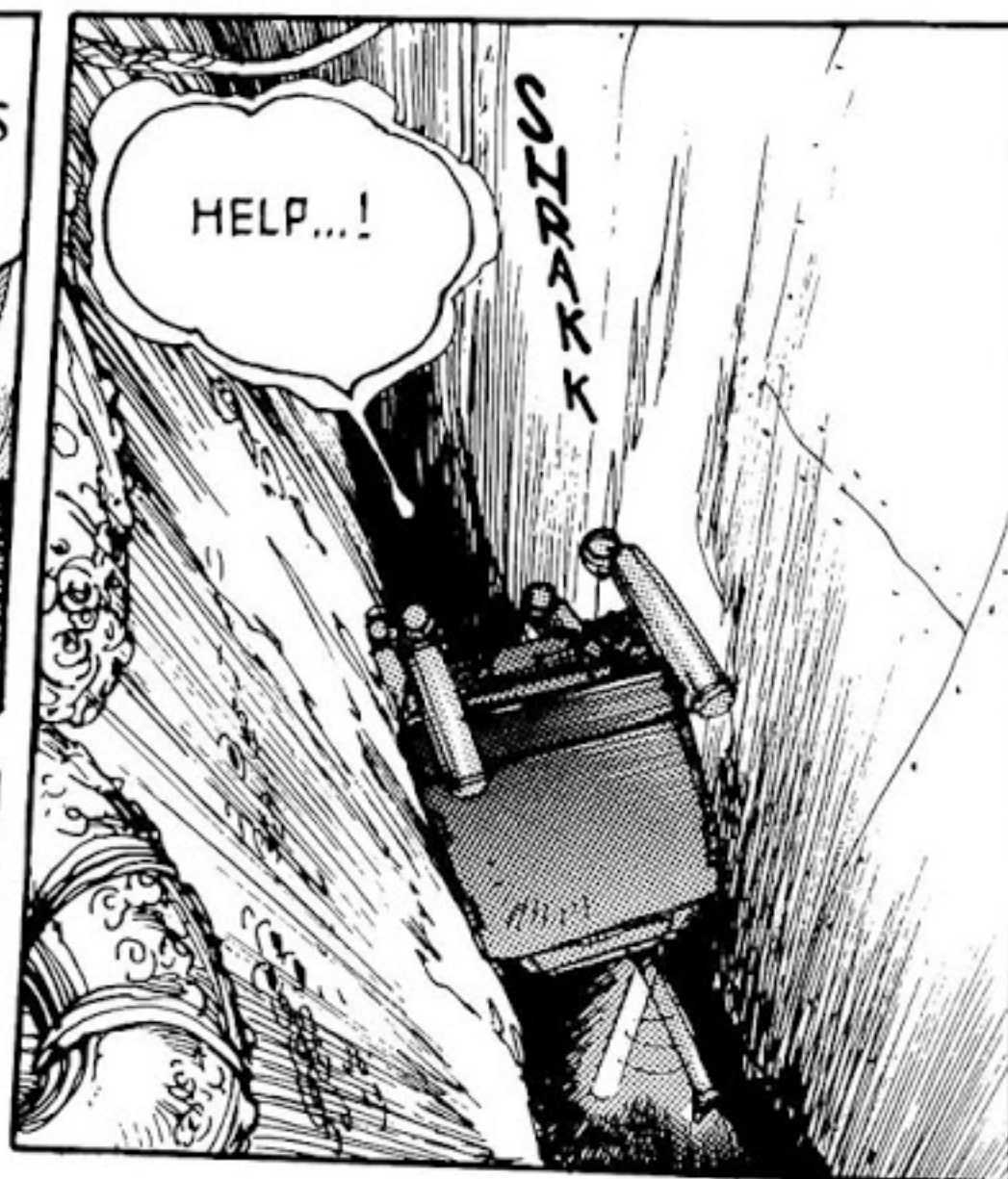
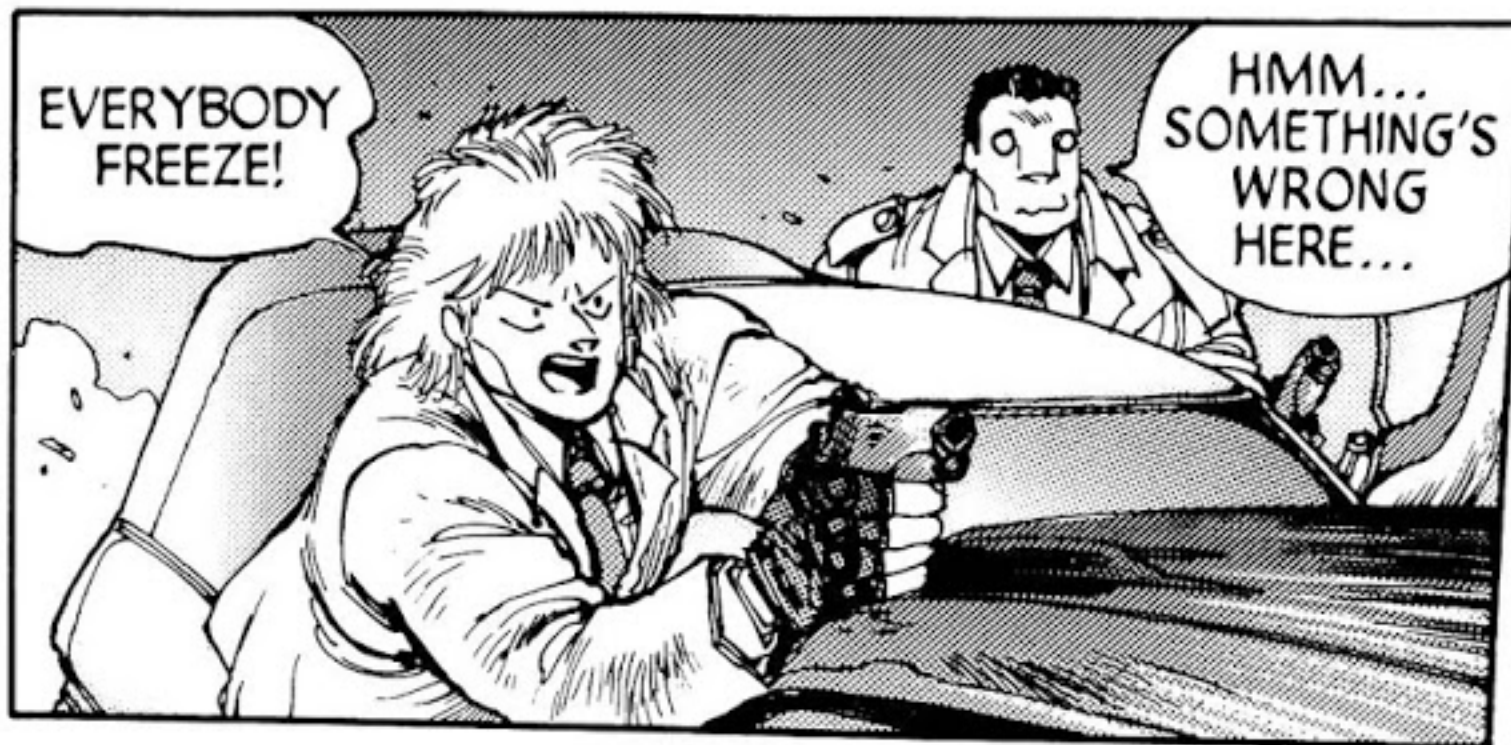


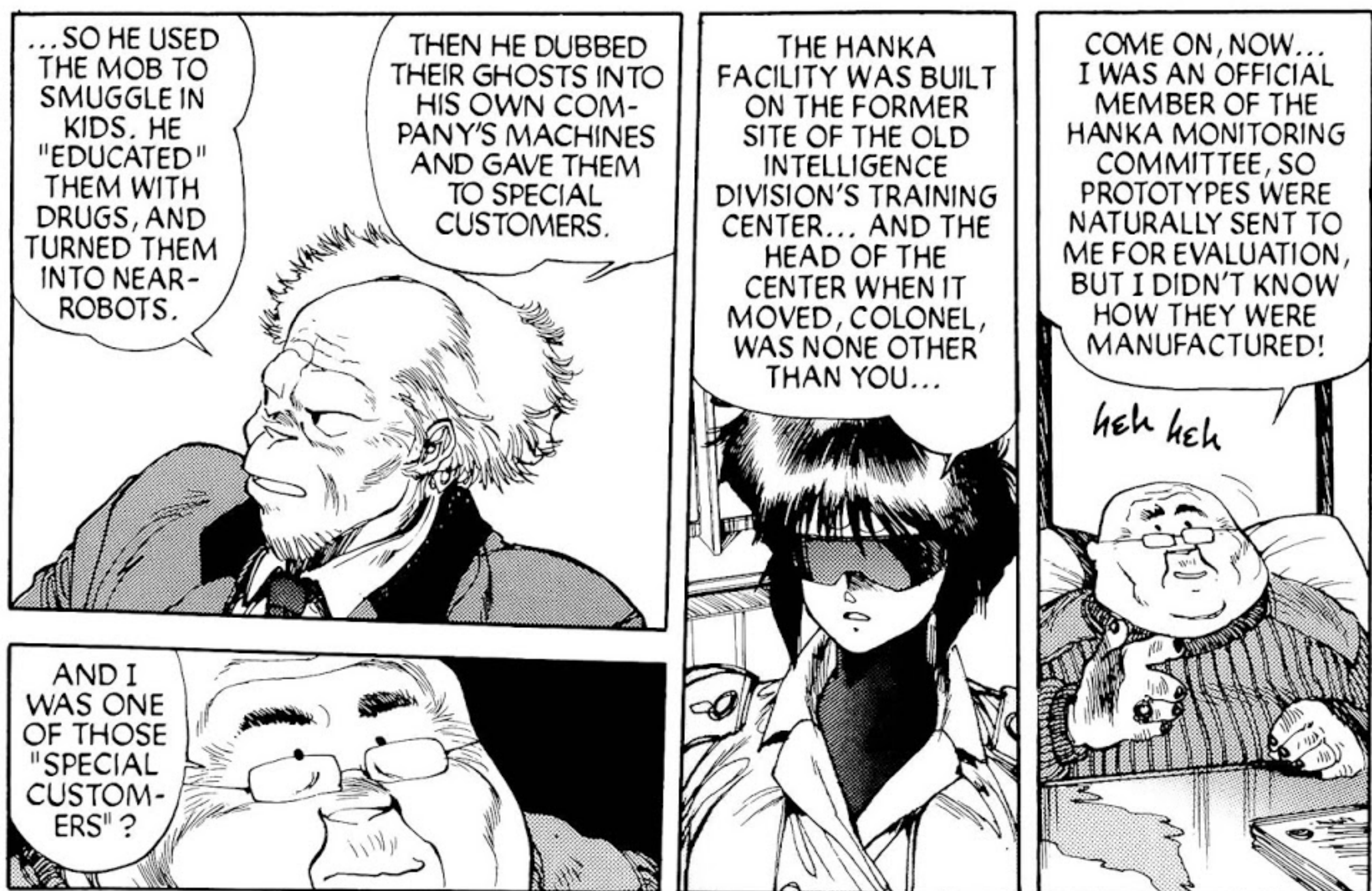
B-BOSS!
MAKE THE
ROBOTS
ATTACK
THEM!

DON'T
BE AN
IDIOT!

YOU WANT
TO MAKE THE
SITUATION
EVEN WORSE?!
BESIDES,
THEY'RE NOT
EVEN
COMBAT
MODELS...

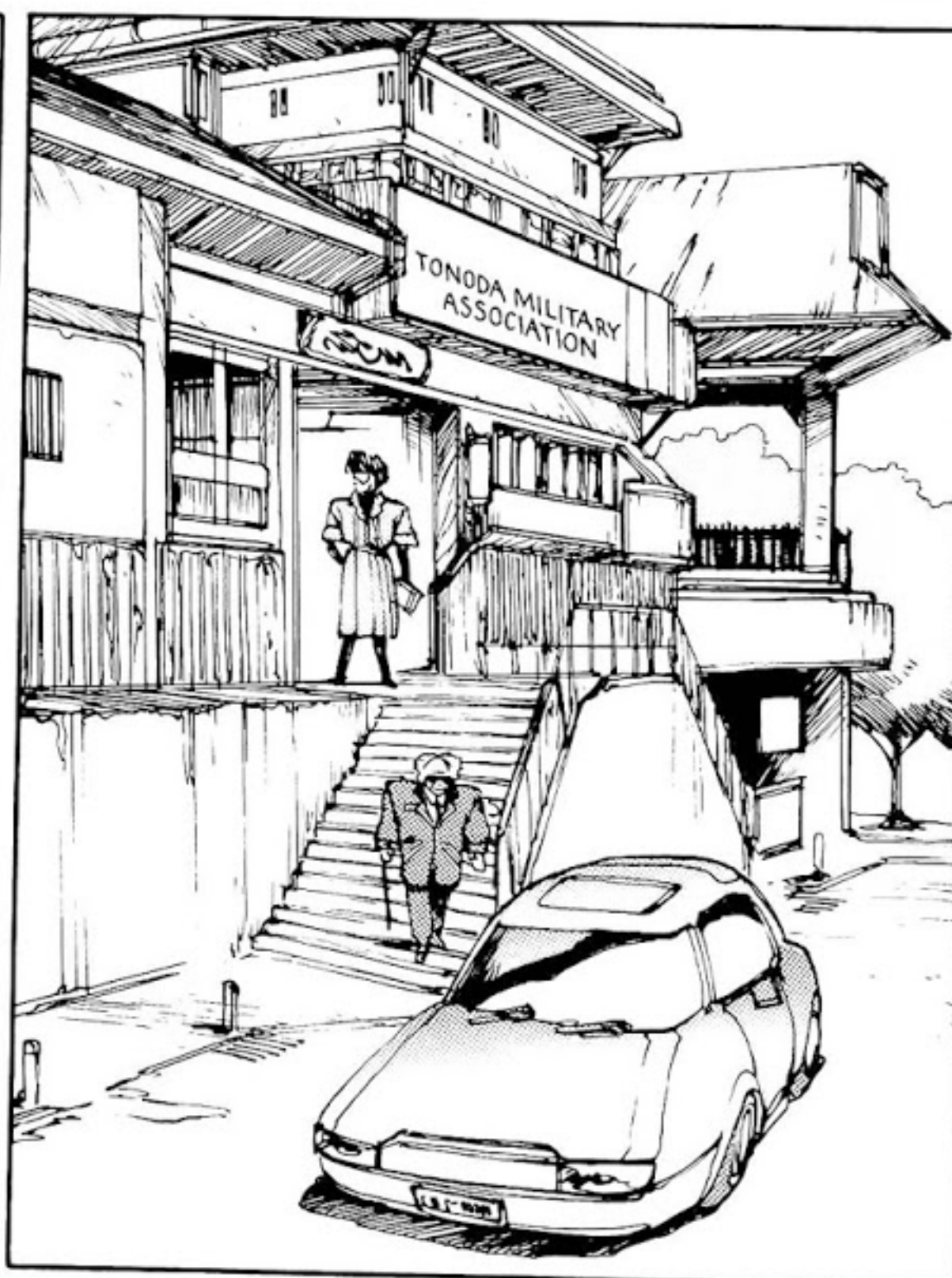
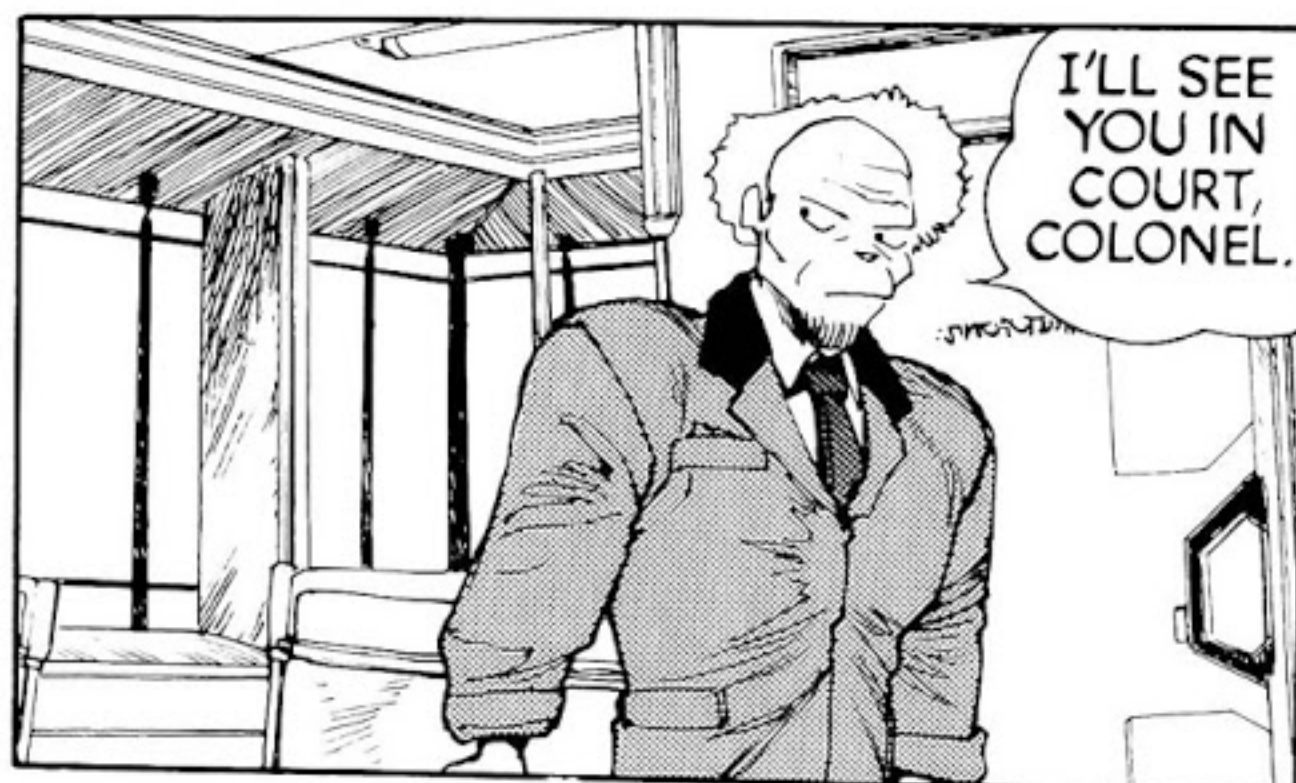
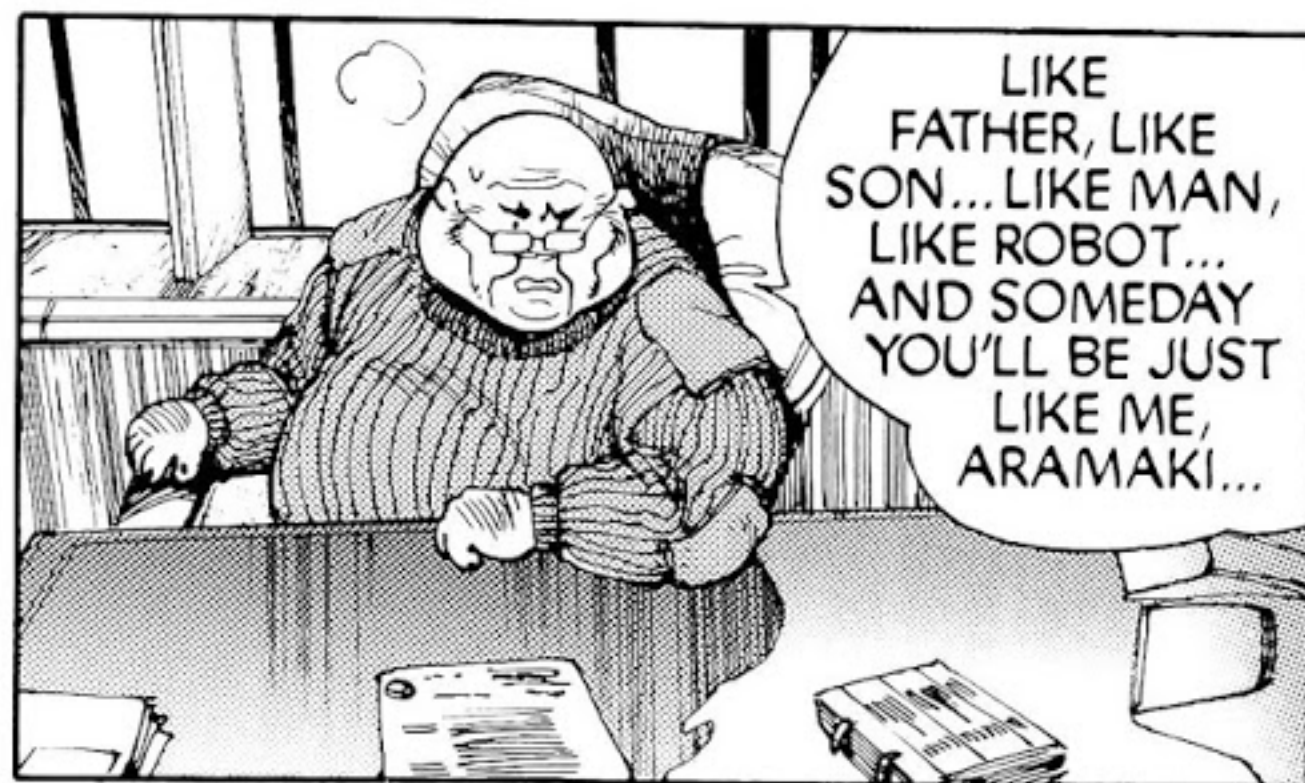


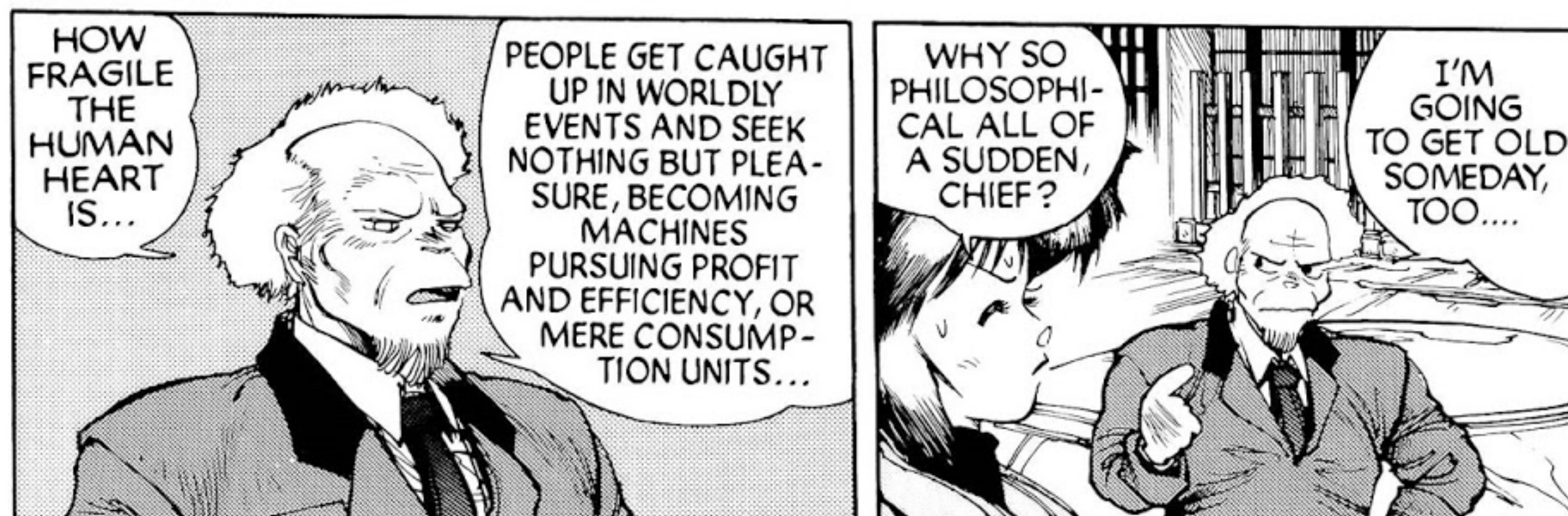
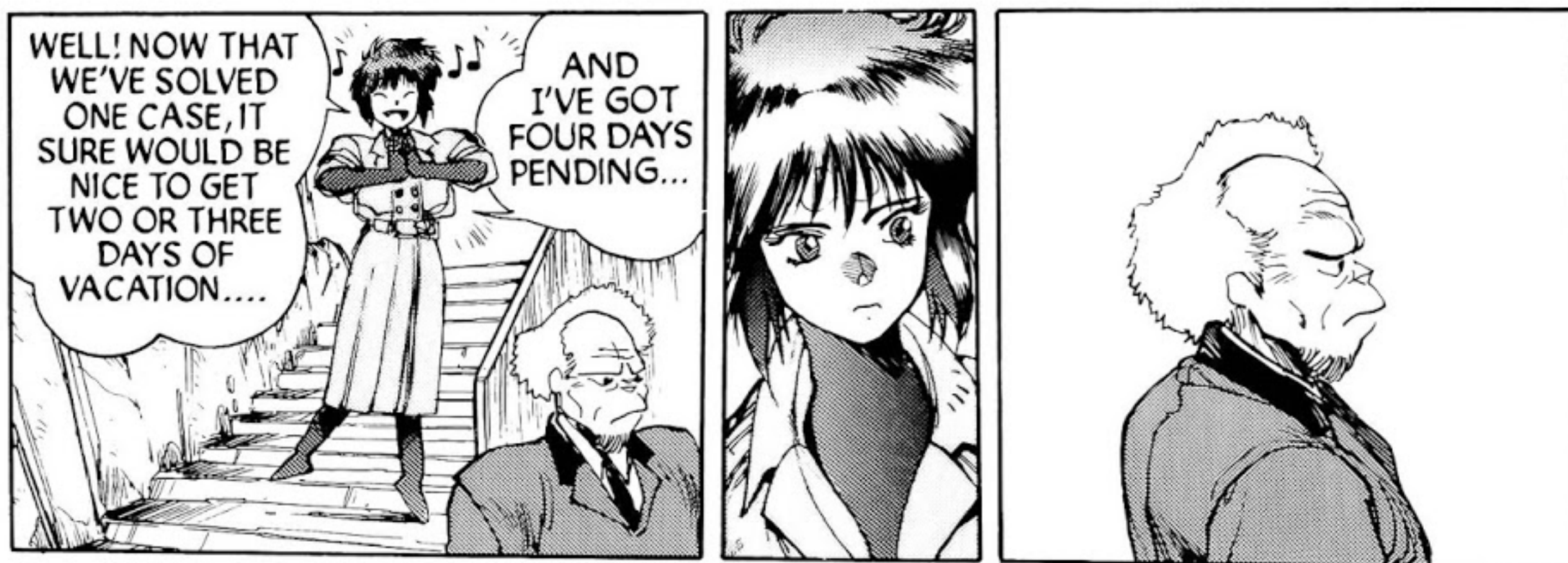






PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN HOW SUCH ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY WERE MANIPULATED-- MONEY OF UNCLEAR ORIGIN AND USE?

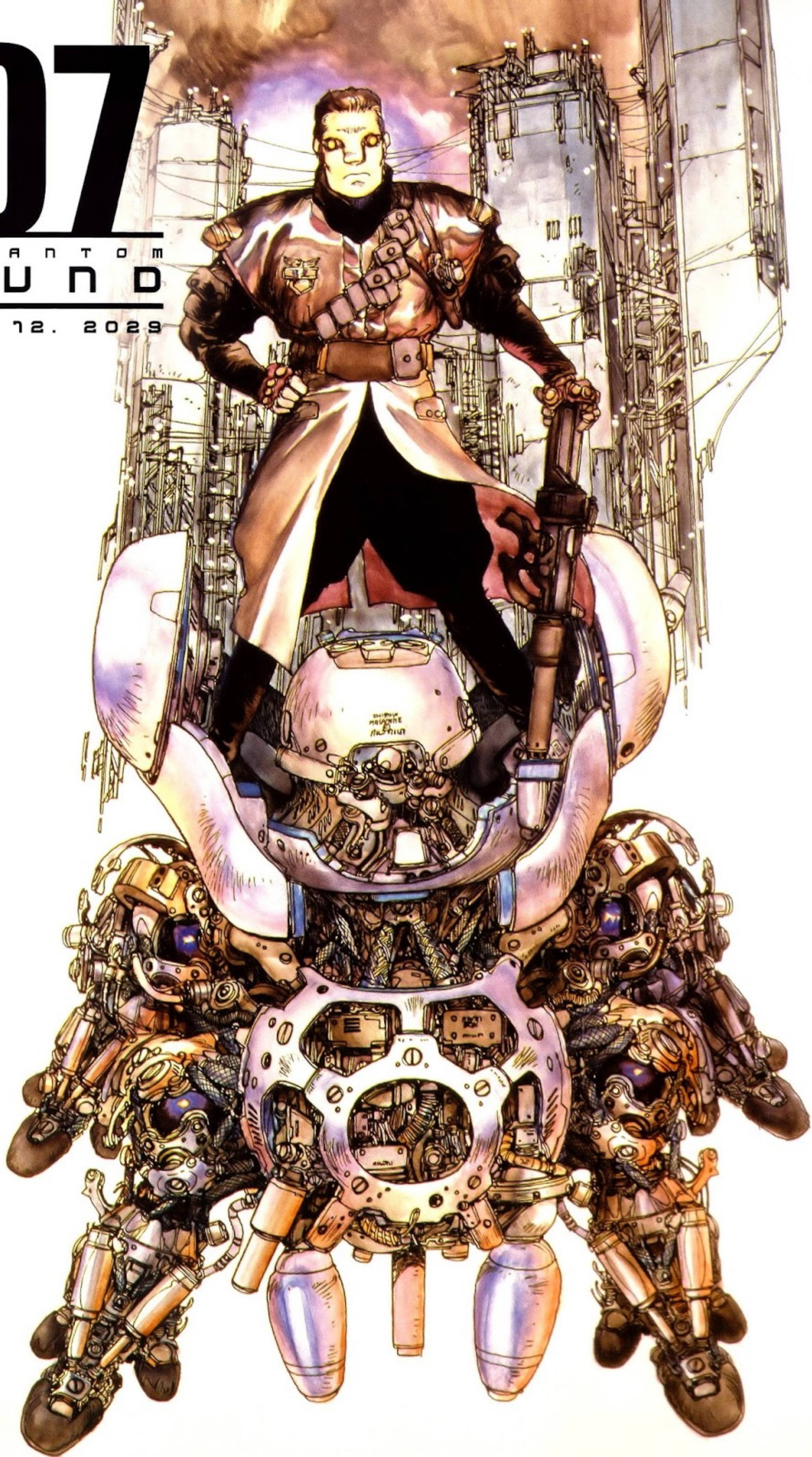




07

P H A N T O M
F U N D

24. 12. 2029



BRASS CATCHER ON TOP.



THE SEBUORO™ C-25a AND 26a BOTH HOLD 50 ROUNDS OF 6x25 HV SHELLS.

MAGAZINE SAME AS THE FN-P90.

SO, WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE BRASS CATCHER ATTACHED, THE SHELLS ARE EJECTED FORWARD?

SEEMS TO ME IT'D TEND TO JAM...

ORDNANCE #4 (SMALL ARMS)

HEY, YOU GOT ANY IDEA HOW MANY MONTHS WE SPENT TESTING THAT THING ?!

LOOK AT THESE CALLOUSES, WILL YA?! I AIN'T KIDDING!

HAHAHA You LIAR!

WELL, PUT A MATTE FINISH ON IT.

IF I GET THE CHANCE, I'LL TRY IT OUT.

GEE! LOOKIT THAT!
 Wow! COOL!

DON'T TOUCH! THIS TANK'S FOR SECTION ONE!

Heh heh...

KEHIK



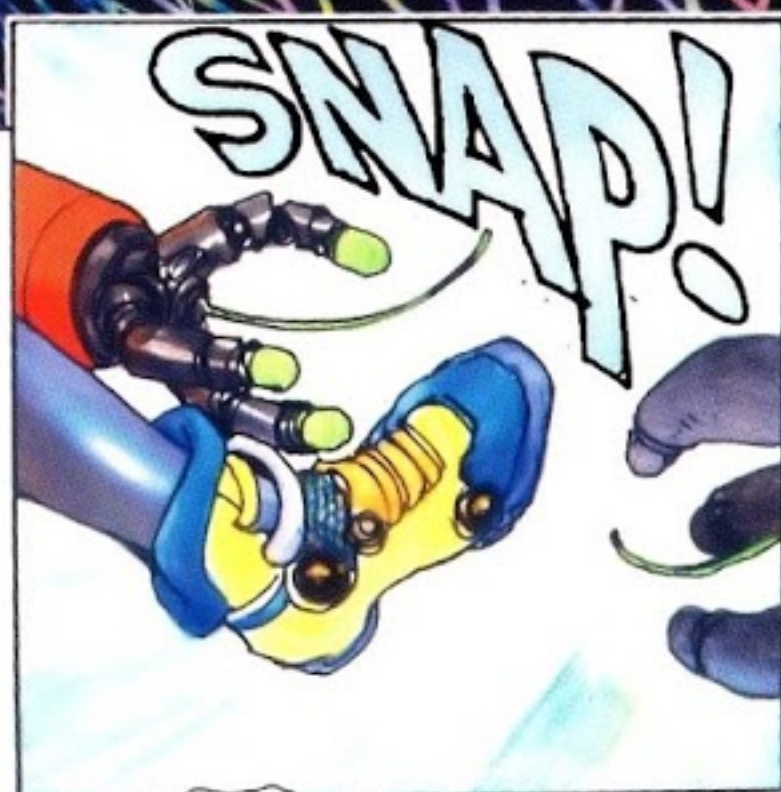
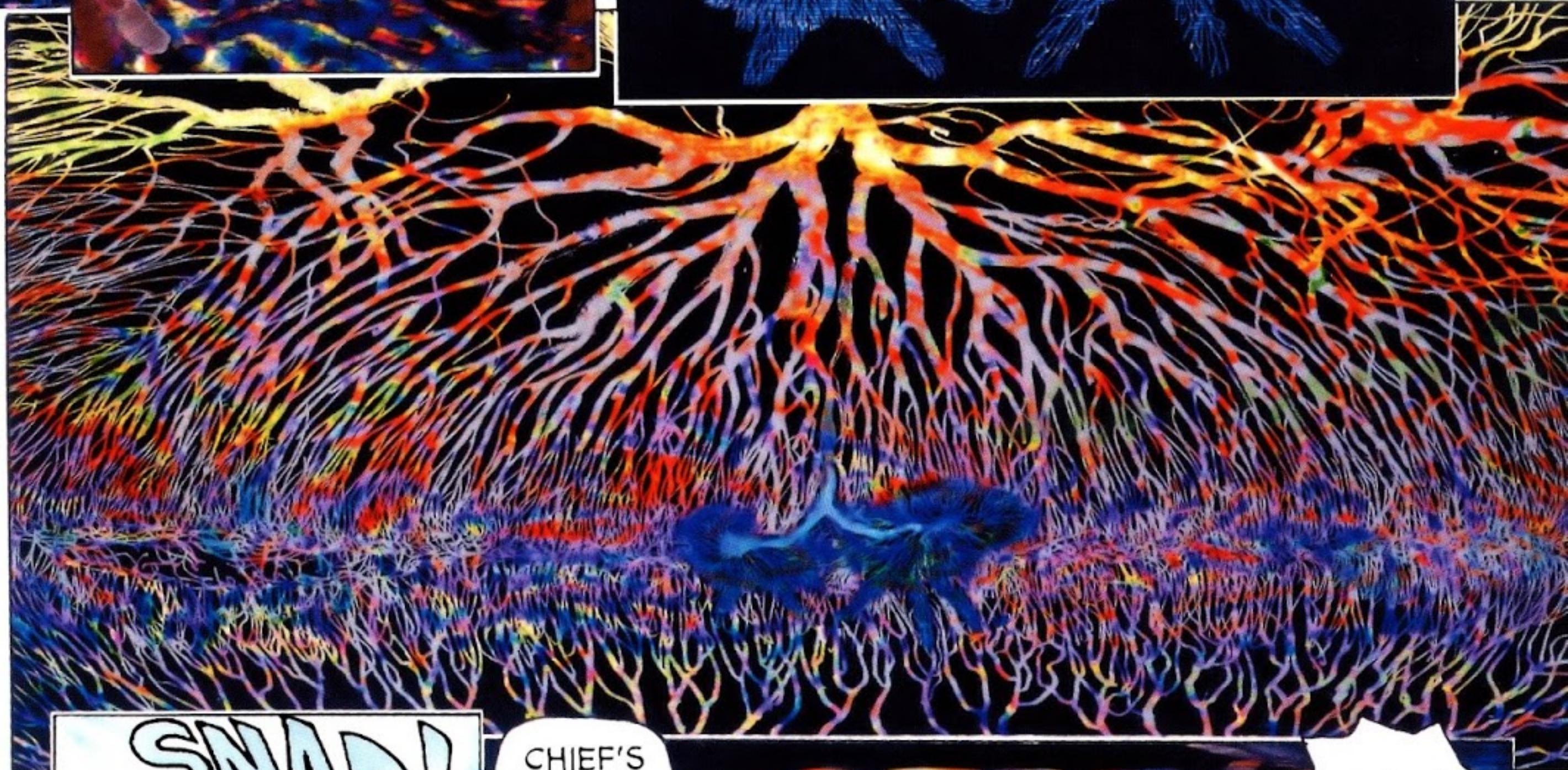
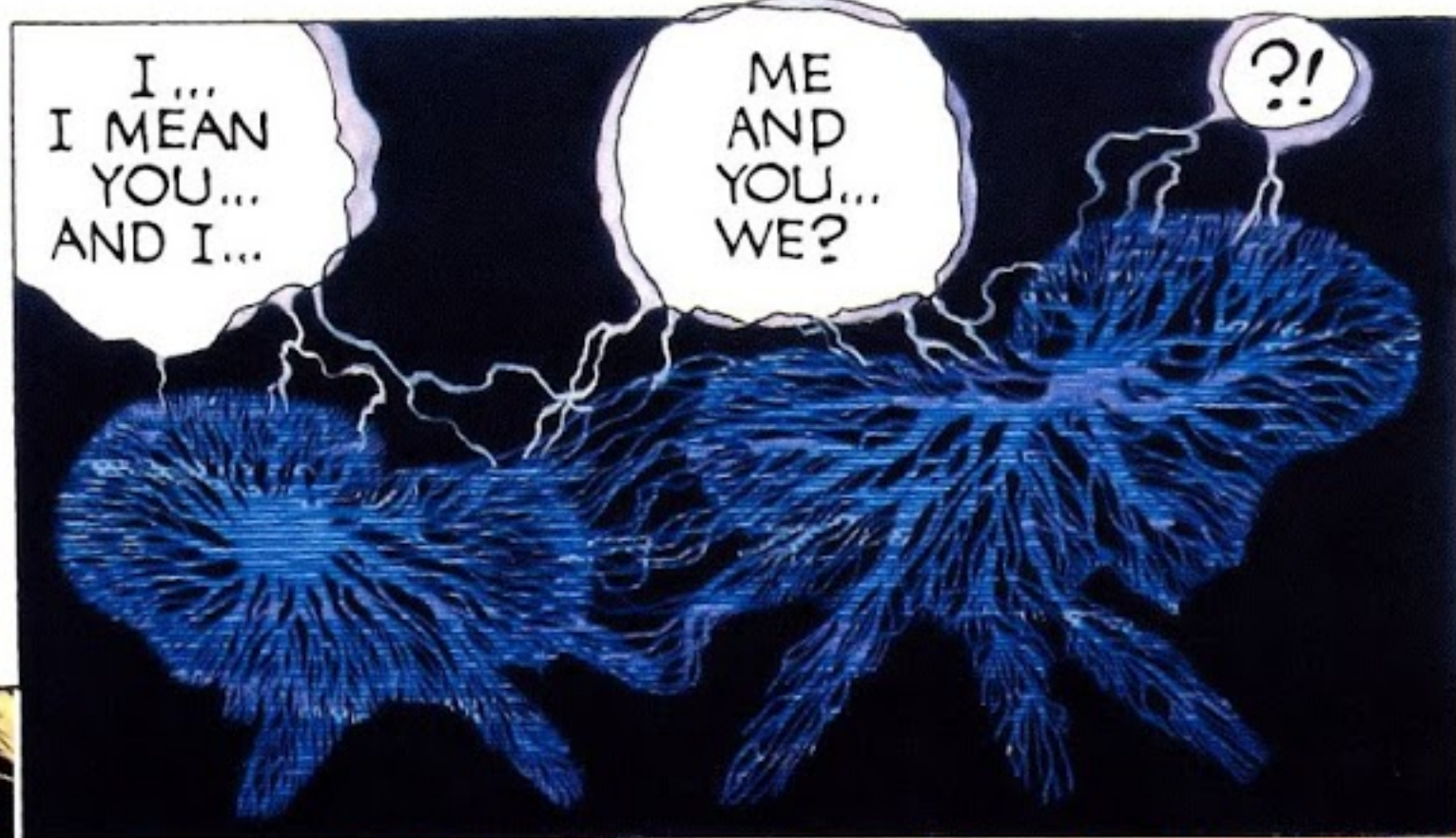
Huh?!
ONLY THE
BRAIN'S
BEEN ACTI-
VATED?

HMM... NO
BARRIER?!

I...
I MEAN
YOU...
AND I...

ME
AND
YOU...
WE?

?!



SNAP!

CHIEF'S
CALLING...
LET'S
GO!



WHA--!?



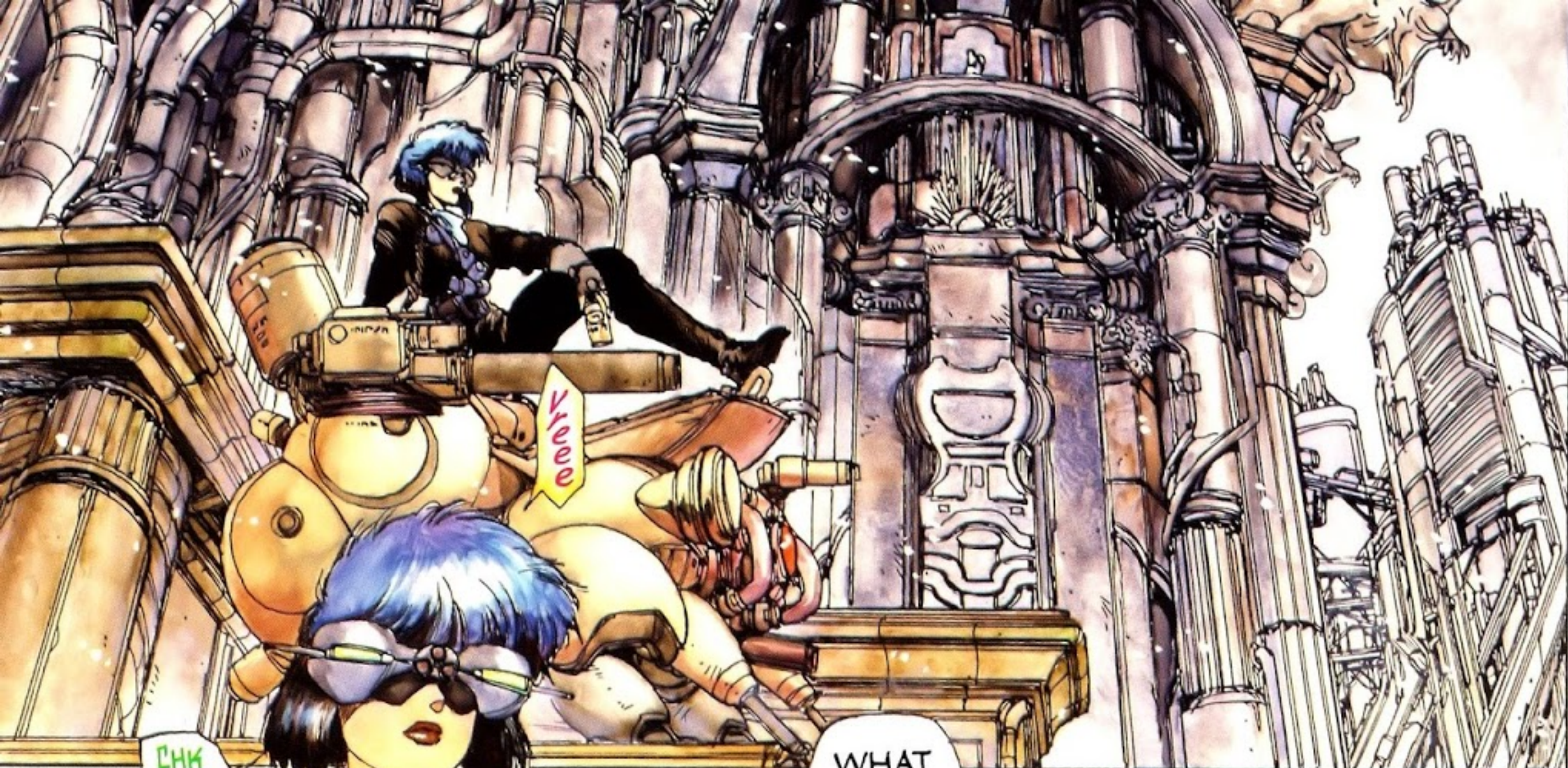
B-BUT
I WAS
ON THE
VERGE
OF A
PROFOUND
INSIGHT!



DAMN ... NO
CLEAR DATA
RECORD, BUT I
KNOW IT WAS
SOMETHING
TERRIBLY
PROFOUND!

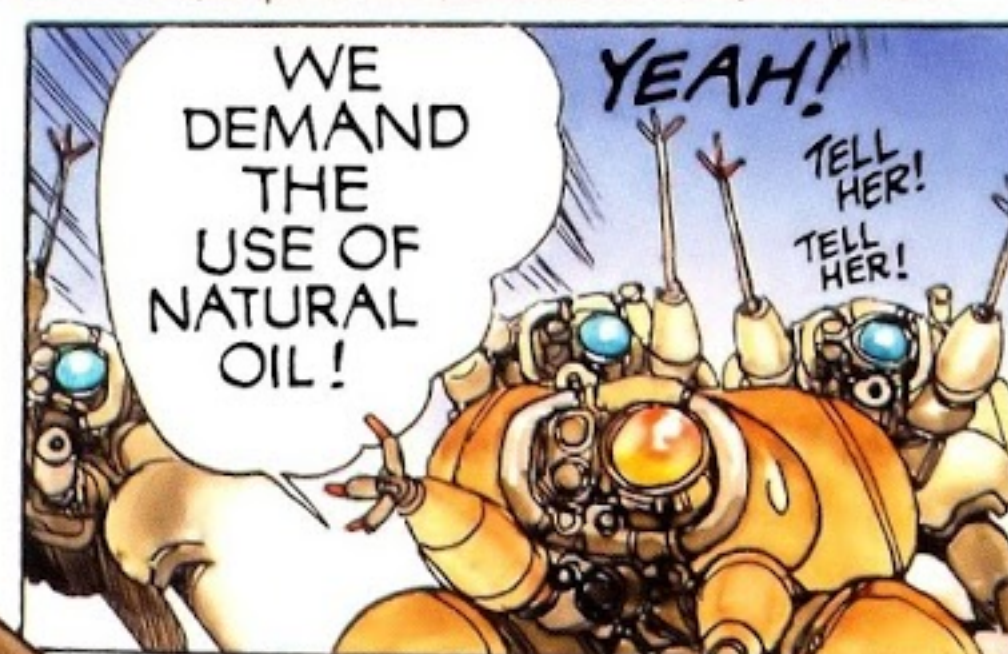
YOU *DO*
REMEMBER
YOUR ROLE
AS MY
"SUIT," I
HOPE...





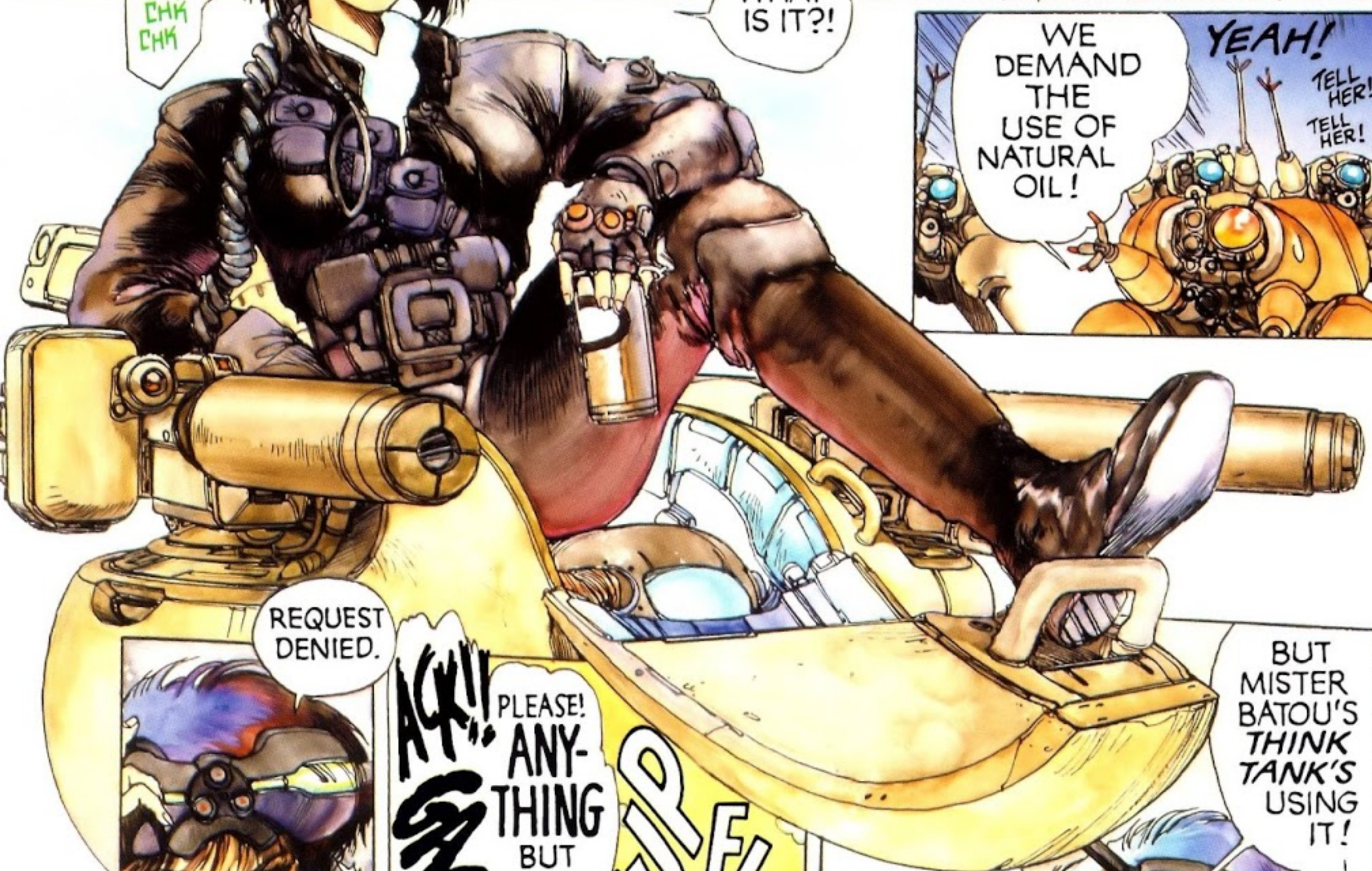
CHK
CHK
CHK

WHAT
IS IT?!



WE
DEMAND
THE
USE OF
NATURAL
OIL!

YEAH!
TELL
HER!
TELL
HER!



REQUEST
DENIED.



ACK!!
PLEASE!
ANY-
THING
BUT
SYNTHETIC!



KICK
KICK

**FLIP
FLOP**

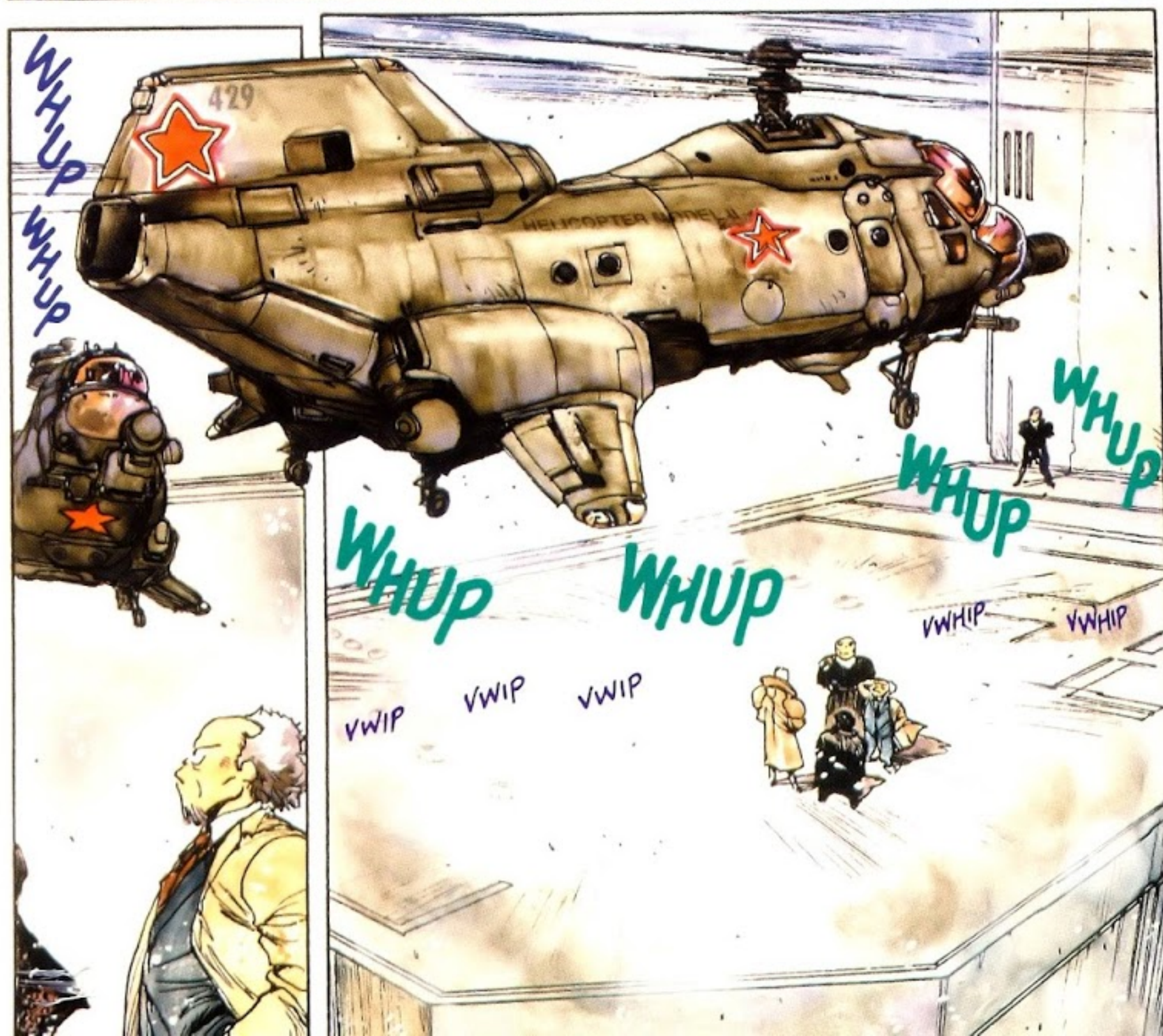
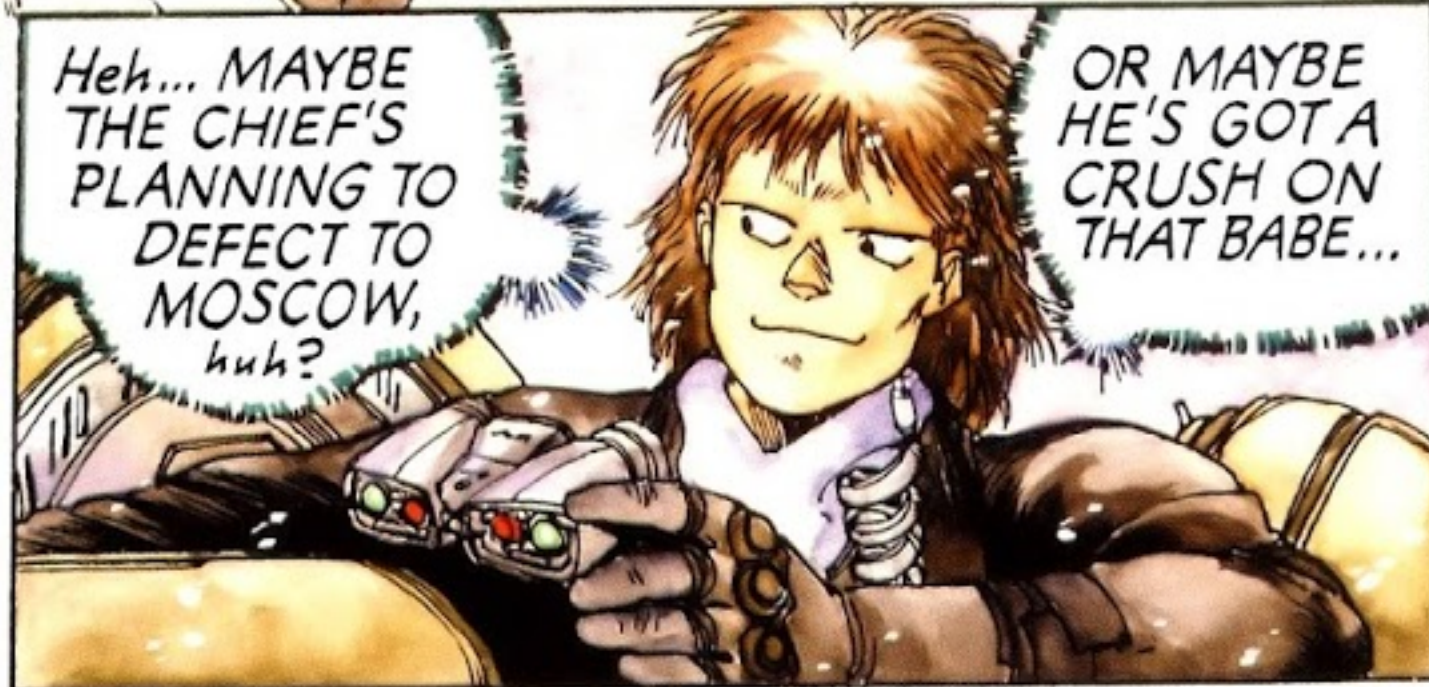
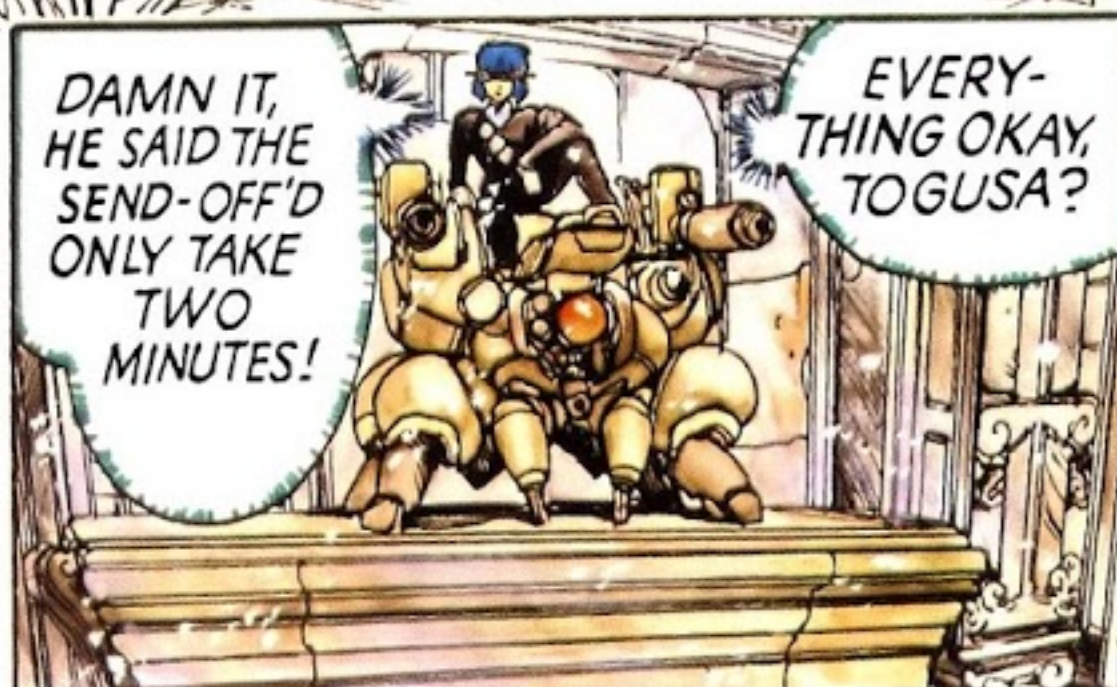
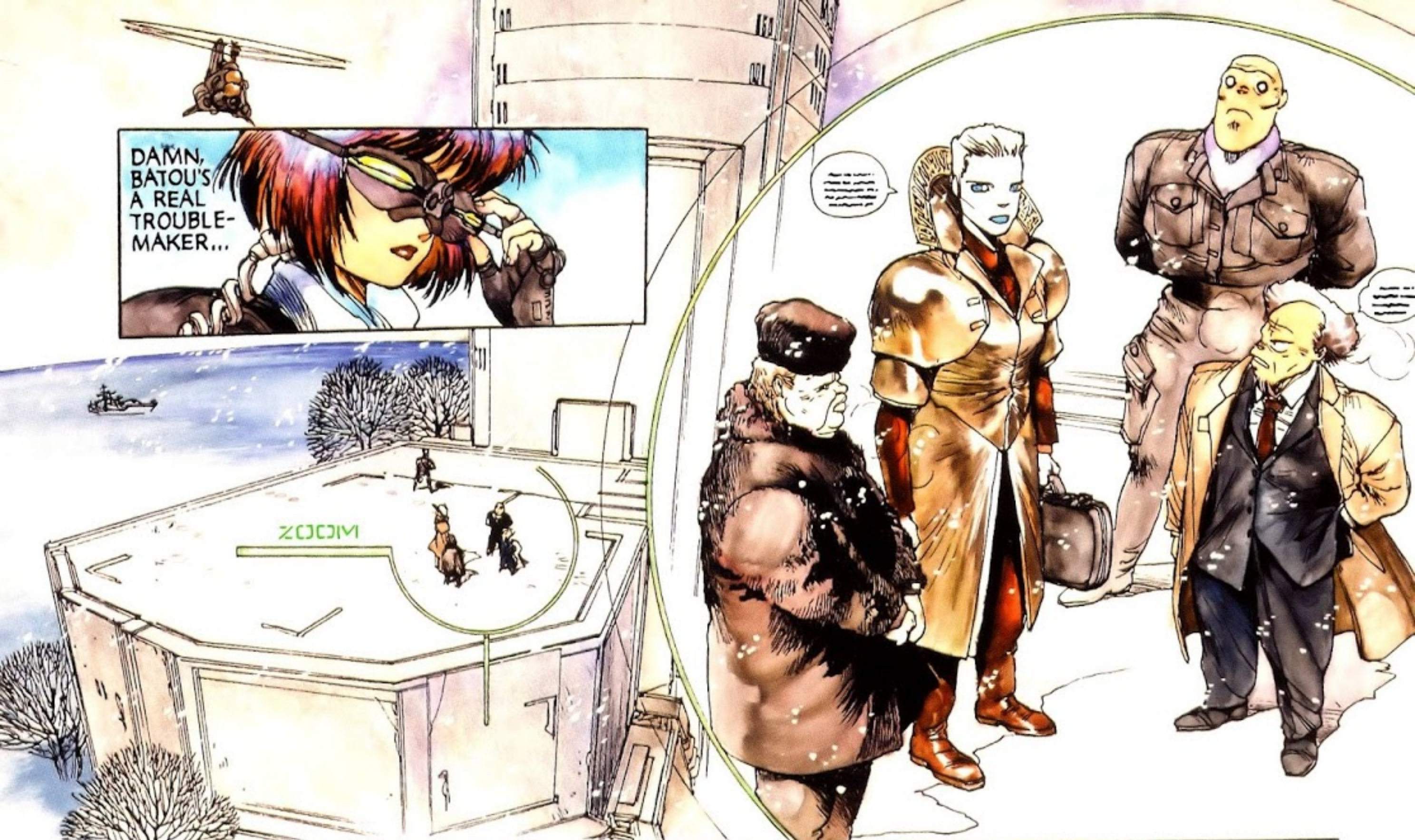
KICK

YOU WANT
PROBLEMS
WITH INSECTS
AND FUNGI AND
SEIZING? QUIT
YOUR BITCHING
AND KEEP UP
THE OBSER-
VATIONS!

BUT
MISTER
BATOU'S
THINK
TANK'S
USING
IT!



snivel,
whine





WELL, COMRADE ARAMAKI... SOME-DAY, WHEN MAGADAN IN SIBERIA'S A GREAT CITY LIKE YOUR FUKUOKA, I'LL INVITE YOU TO VISIT, YES?

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE AS LONG AS METHUSELAH DID...

OUR EXCHANGE DIDN'T BEAR MUCH FRUIT, BUT FOR BOTH OF US, AT LEAST, I THINK IT WAS WORTHWHILE.



IN PARTING, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE PRESENT.



IF YOU MEAN THE CLIPPINGS FROM THE SOYUZ EVENING EDITION, I'VE ALREADY GOT THOSE.



NO. I'M JUST LETTING YOU KNOW THAT MY SUCCESSOR, **ASECHINOV**, IS SOMEONE WHO WASN'T SELECTED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

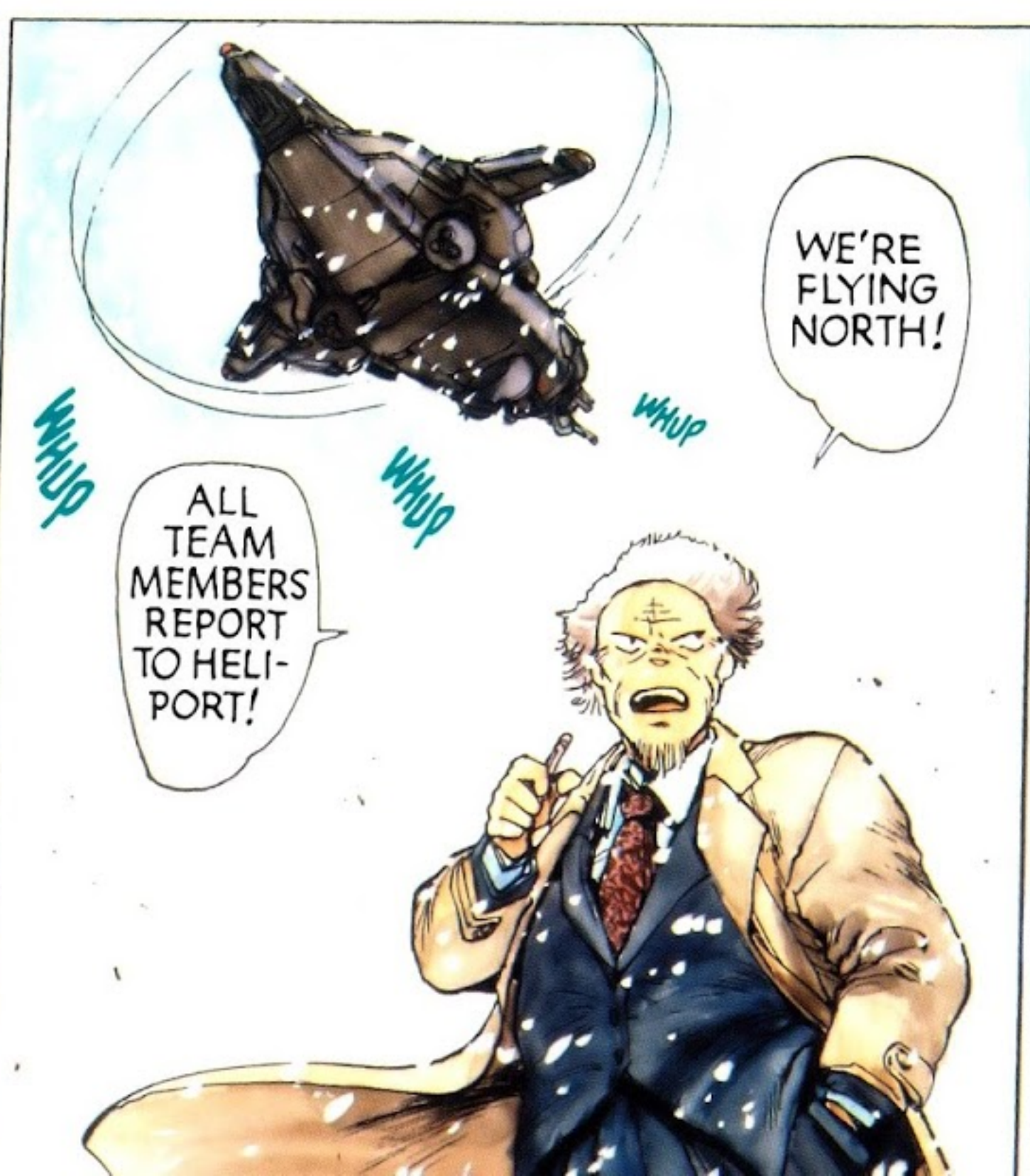
HE GOT HIS JOB THROUGH MONEY LAUNDERED BY GENERAL MARLOV, WHOM I BELIEVE YOU KNOW VERY WELL INDEED.



SINCERE THANKS FOR FINALLY TELLING ME SOMETHING I DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.

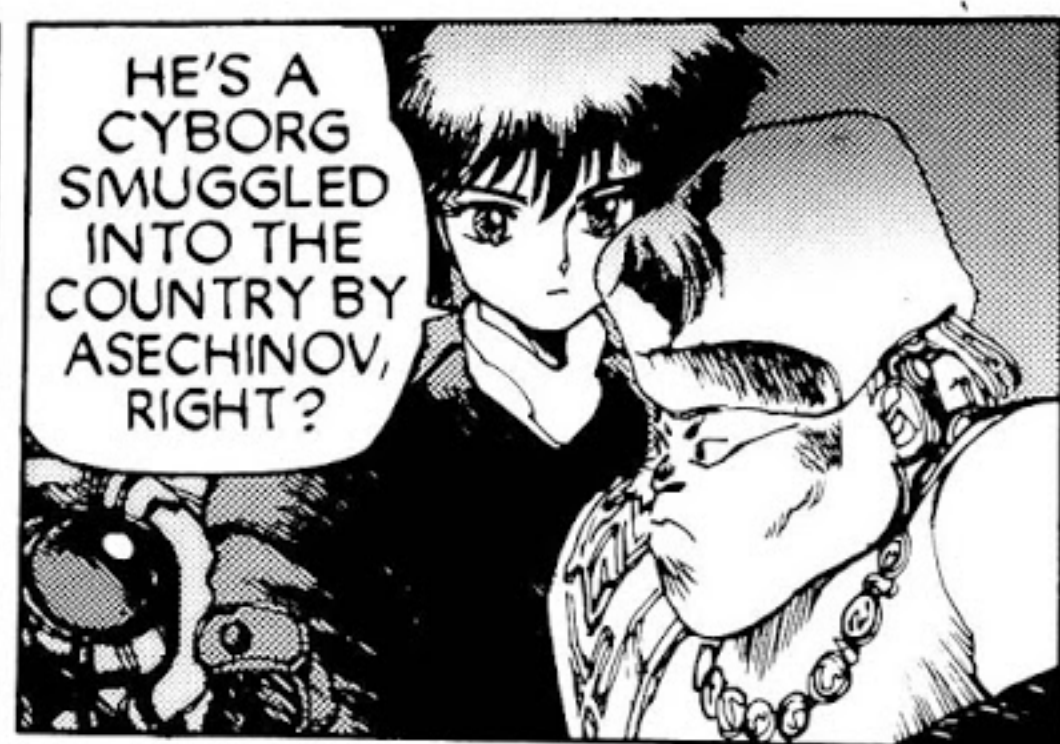
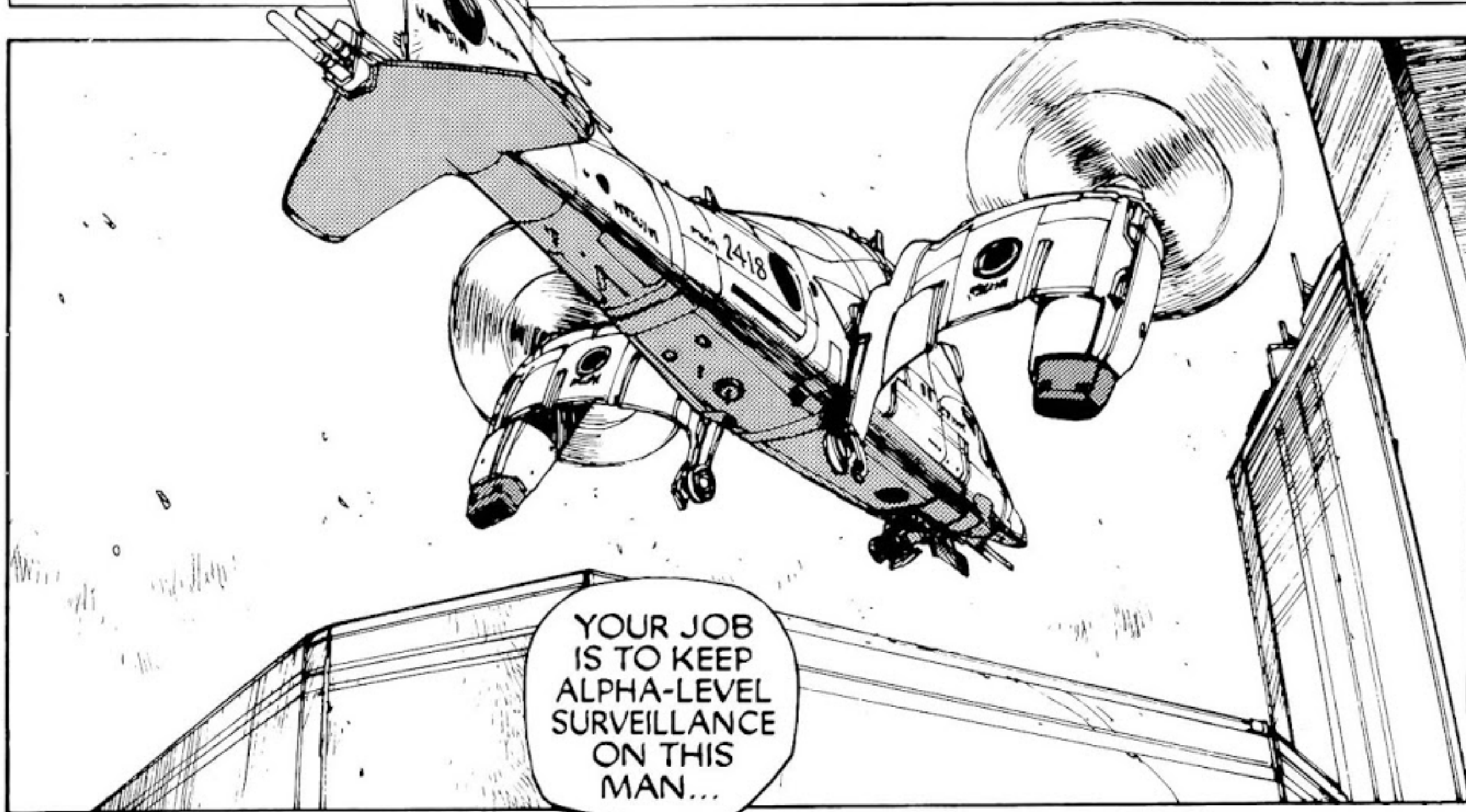
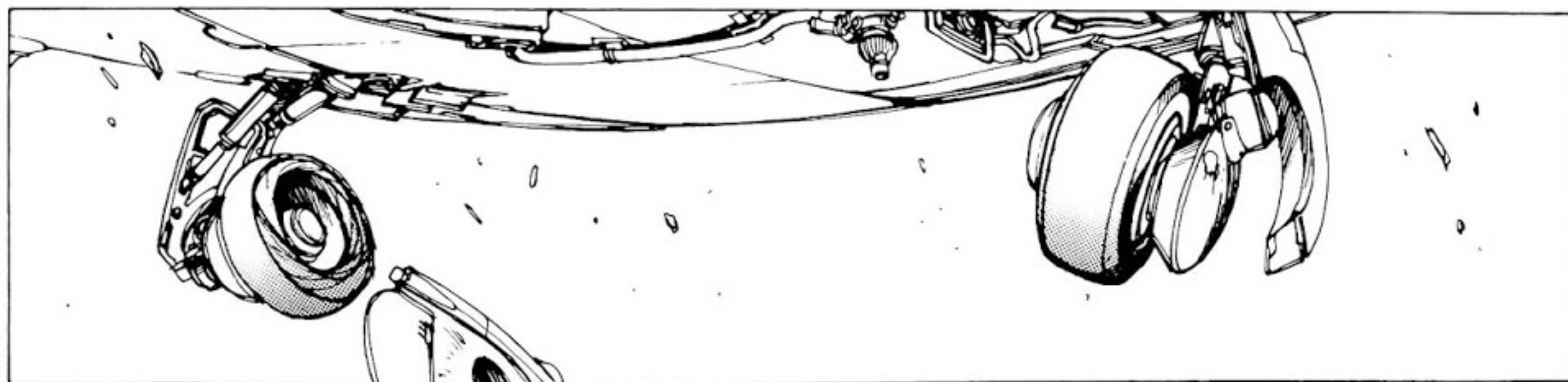


LIES, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME.



WE'RE FLYING NORTH!

ALL TEAM MEMBERS REPORT TO HELI-PORT!





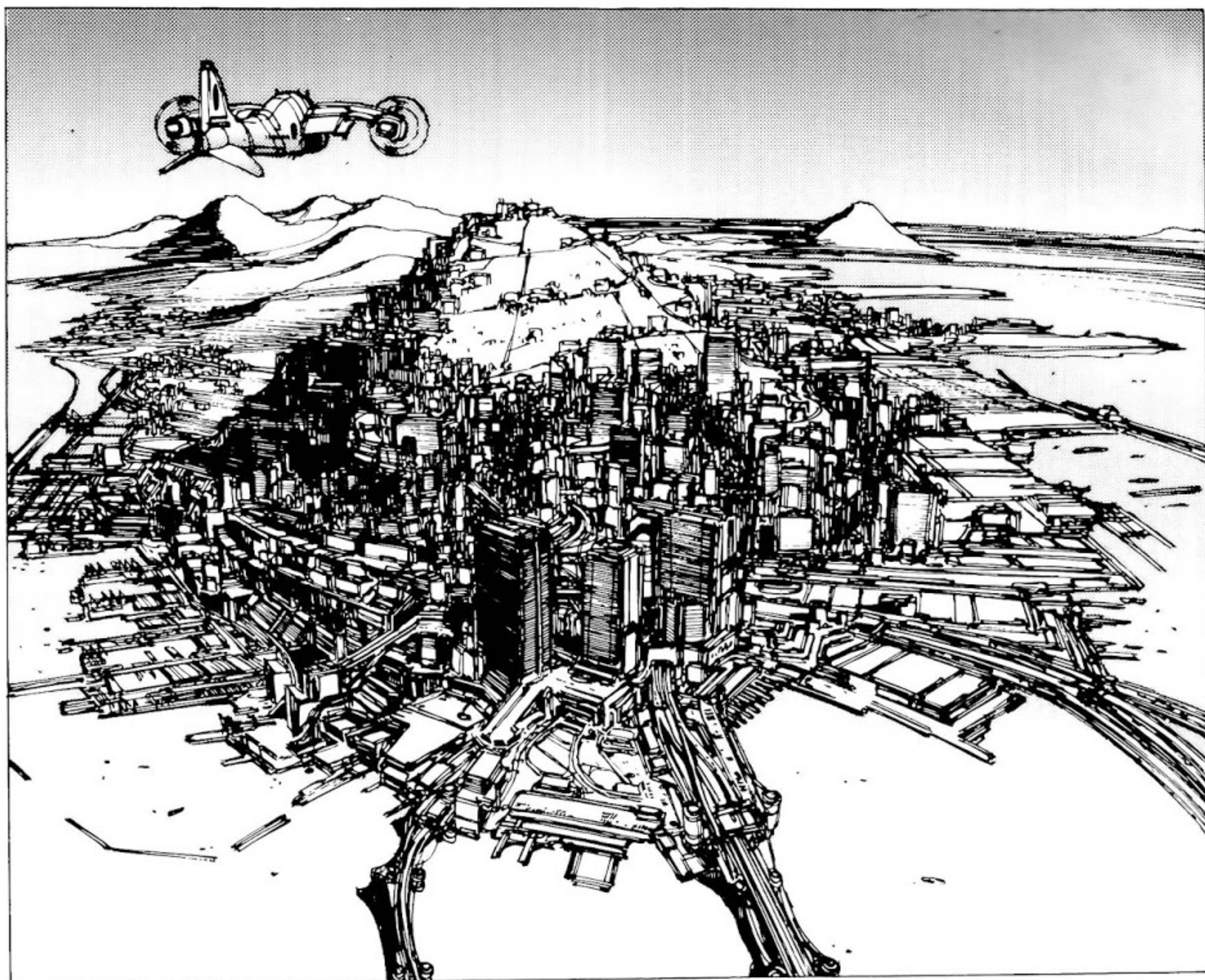


GET YOUR BUTT DOWN! YOUR CG'S WAY TOO HIGH!

JESUS, YOU USELESS PUKES!! THIS AIN'T THE STINKING OLYMPICS!! WITH BIG TARGETS LIKE HUMANS, DON'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT PUTTING FIVE IN THE SAME HOLE--JUST BLAST AWAY AT THE CENTER OF MASS!

STEADY YER STANCE! GO! GO!





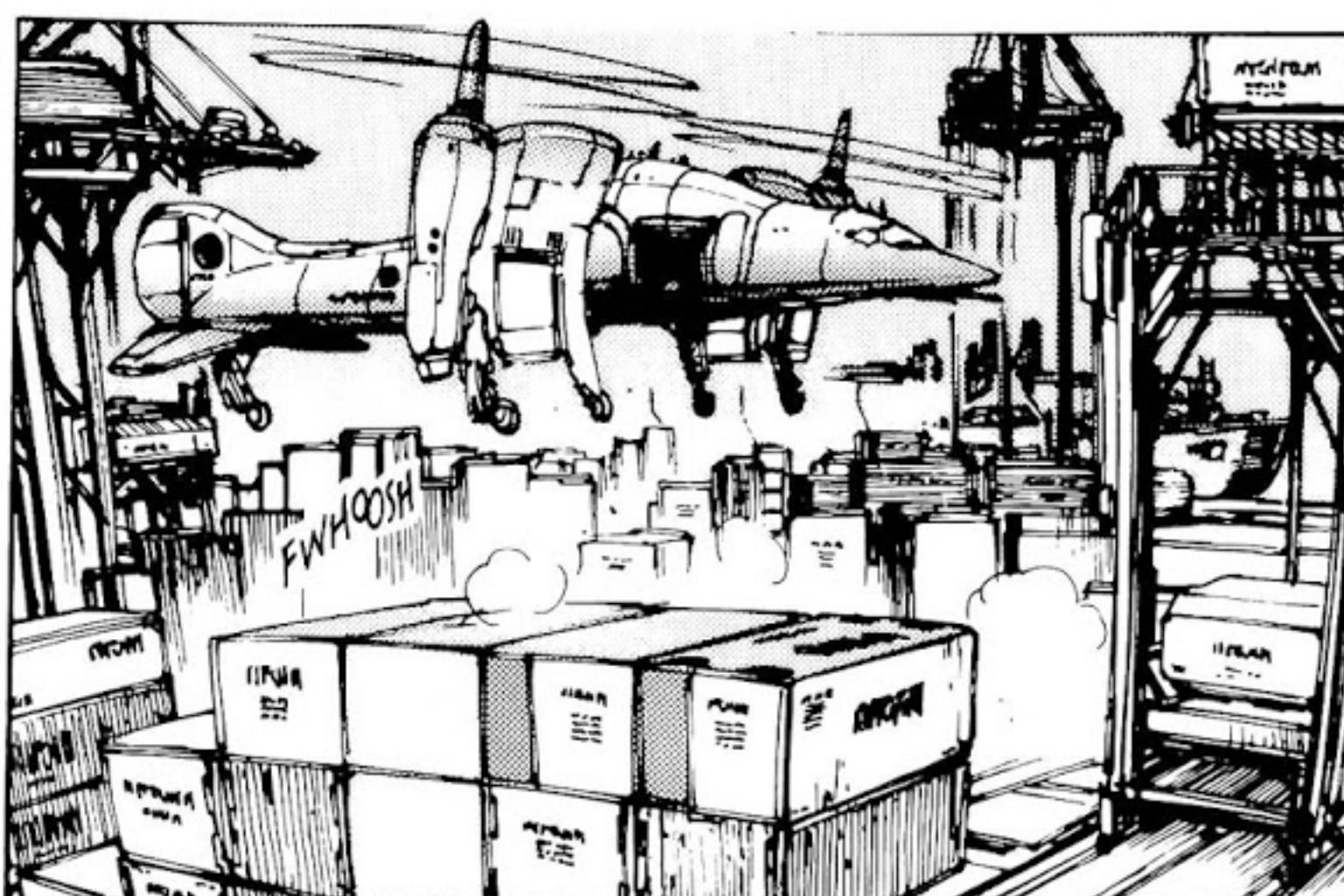
HMM... BERTARVE'S AN OLD-STYLE CYBER-BRAIN-CITY...

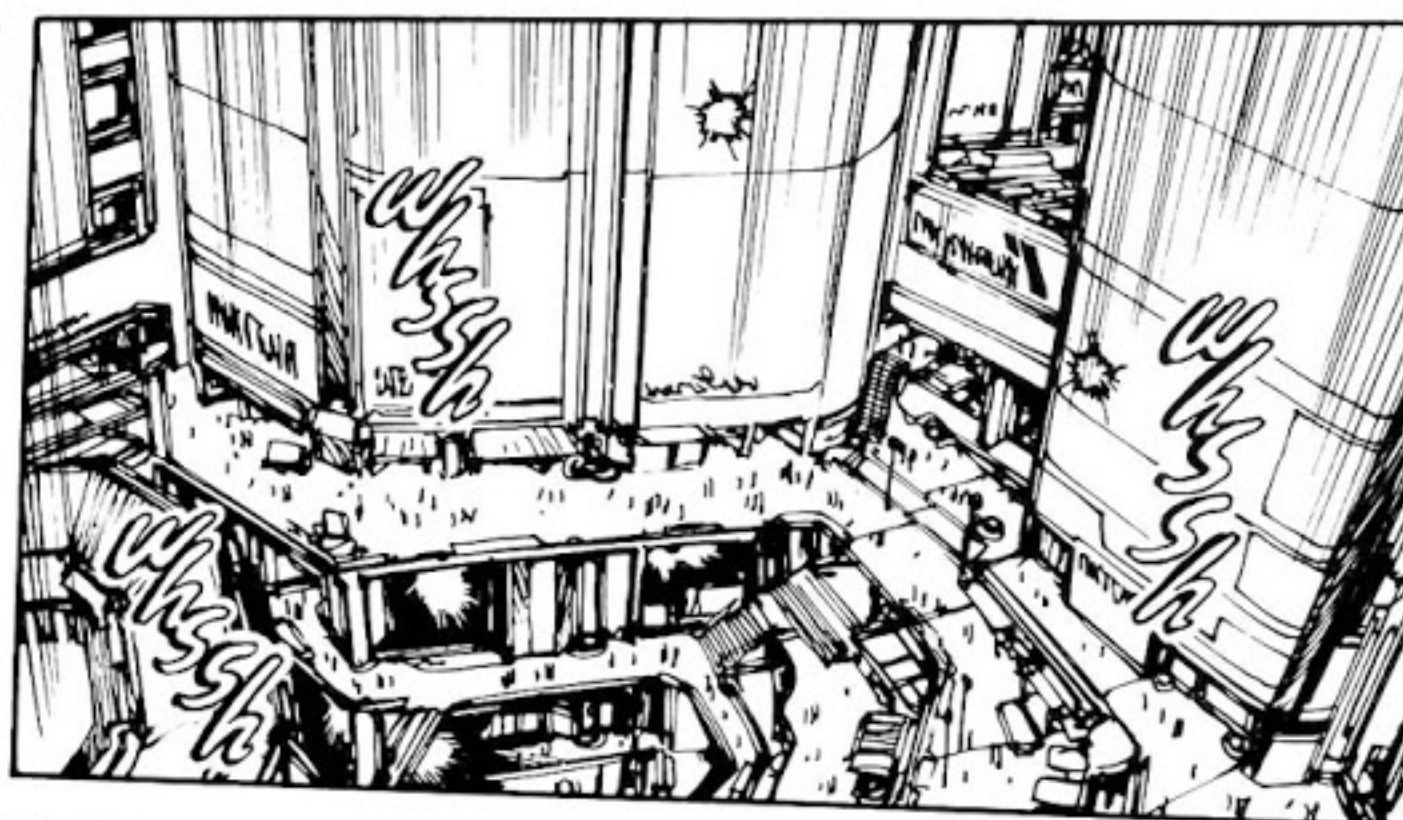
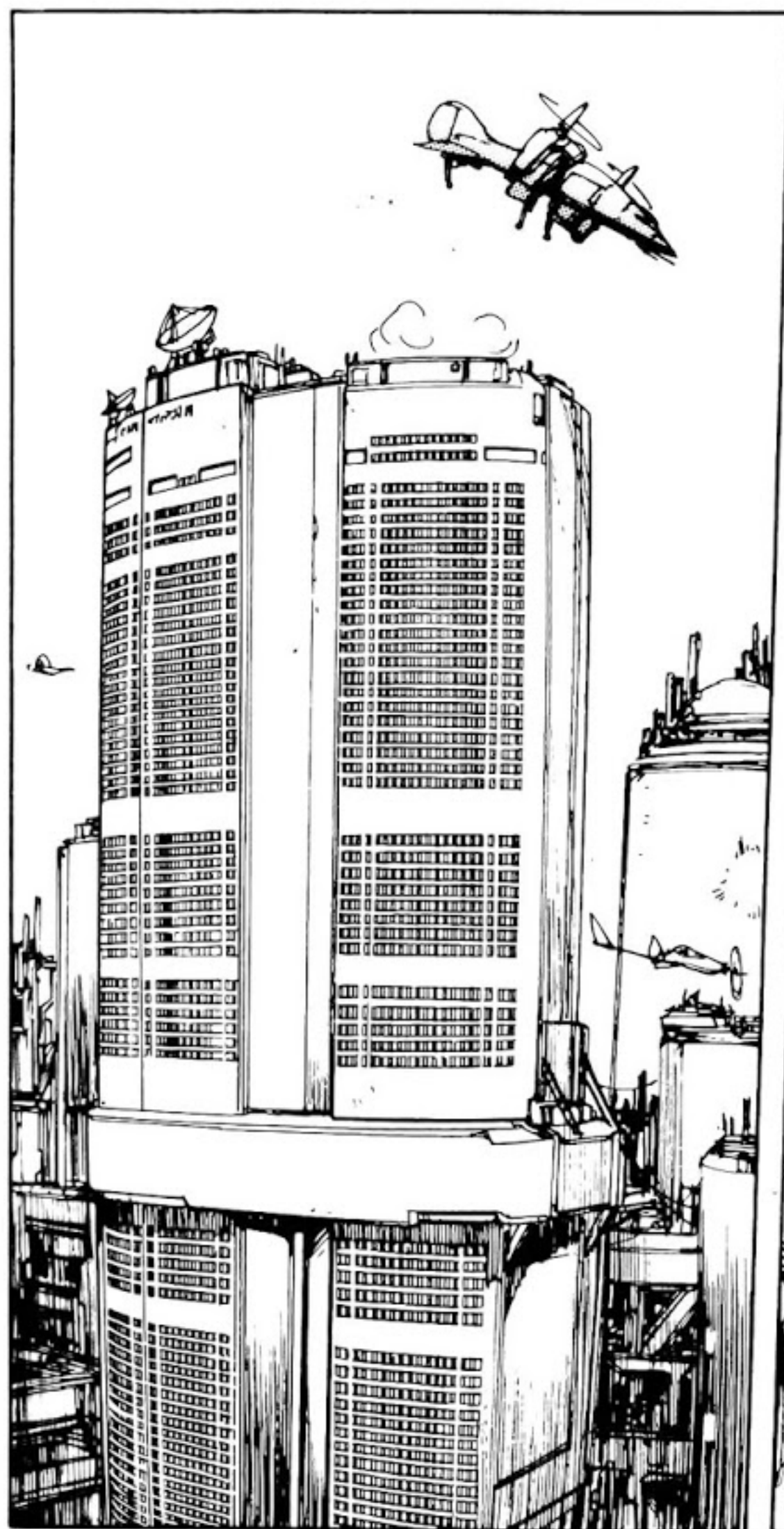
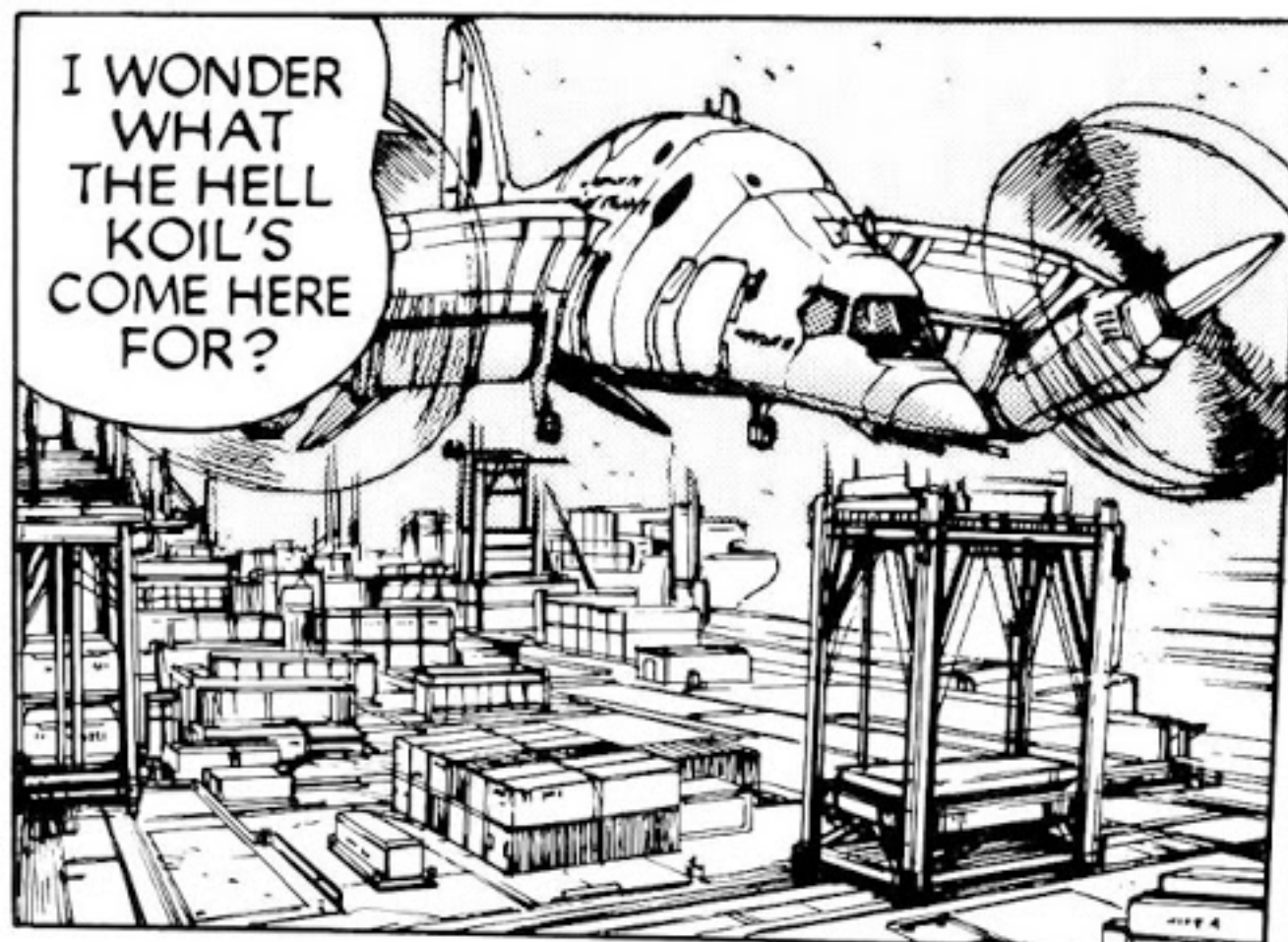
ALL THE TOP SPIES ARE COLLECTING AS MUCH INFORMATION AS THEY CAN ON THIS MACHINERY RIGHT NOW.

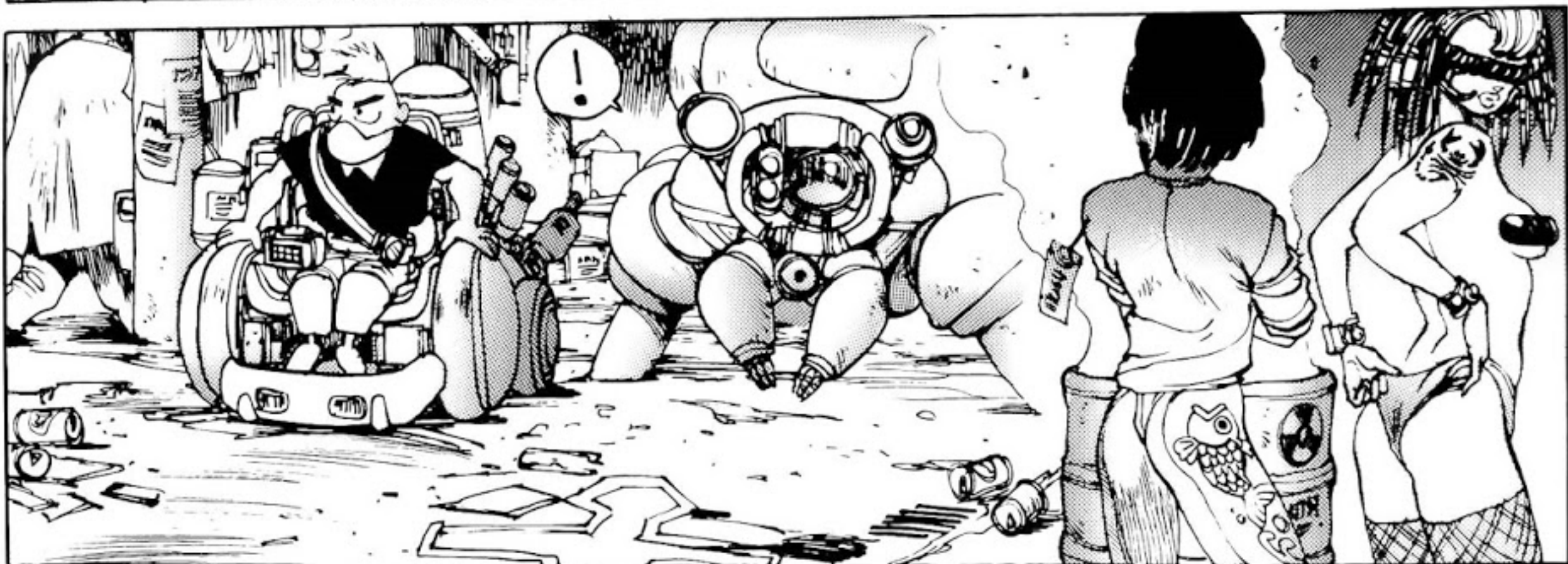
ISHIKAWA! I WANT YOU TO JOIN UP WITH BATOU AND TAKE OVER THE TAILING FROM YANO. WE'LL MEET AT 08:45 AT GRIDREF 47-22.

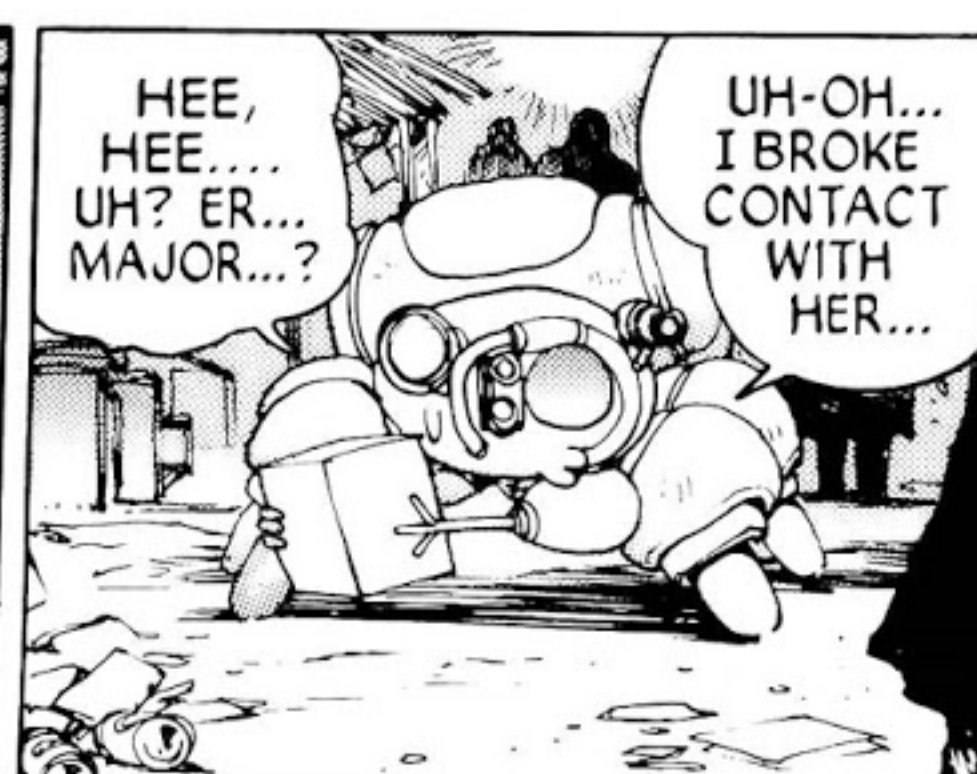
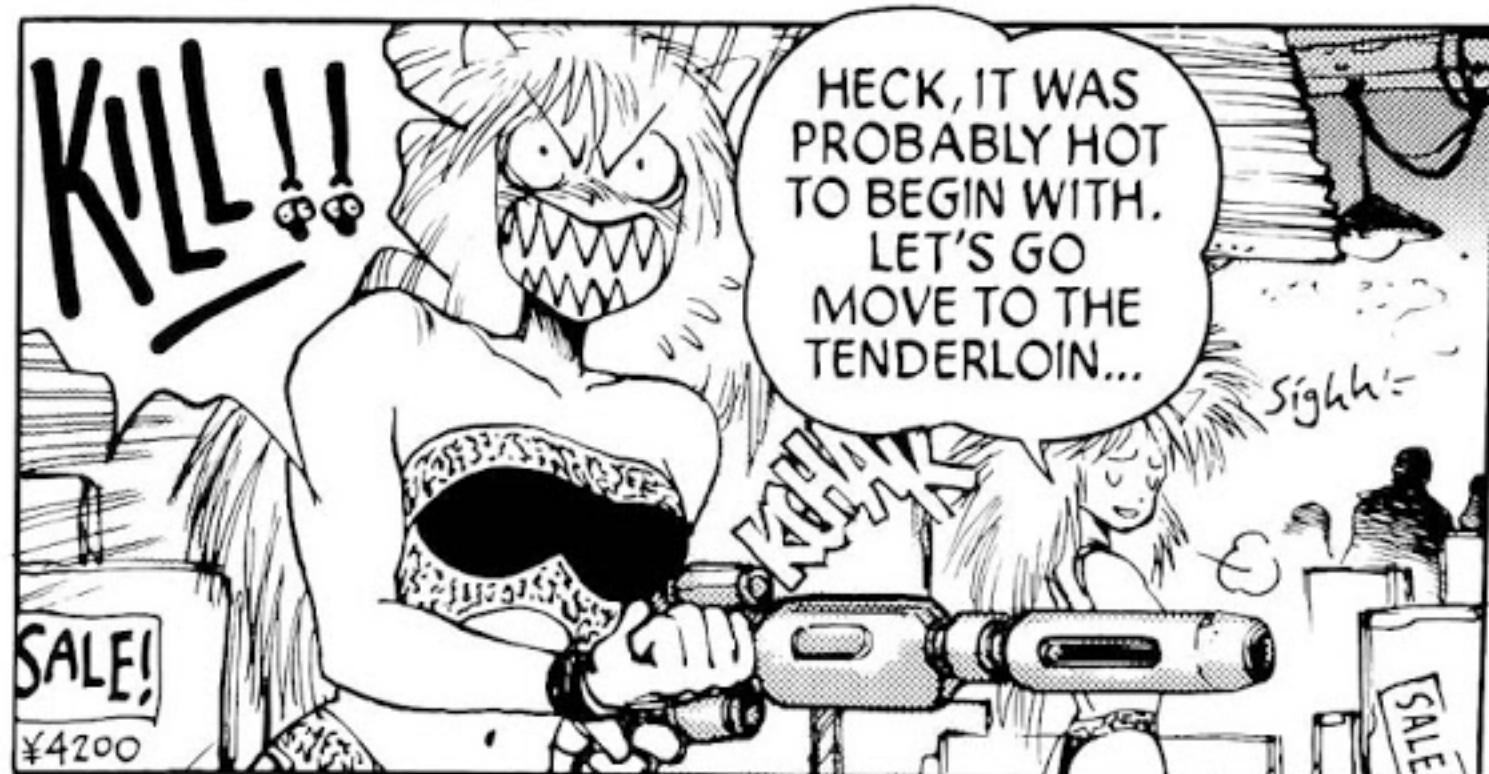
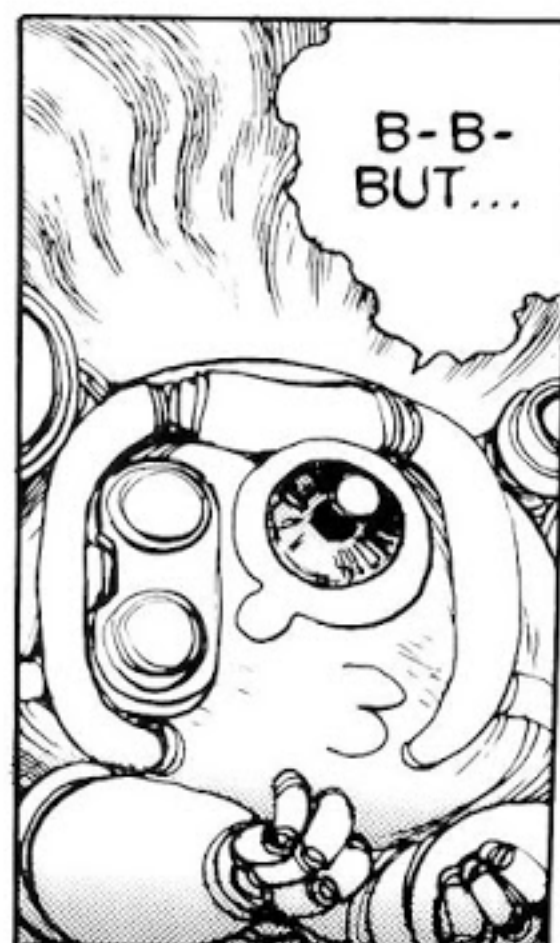
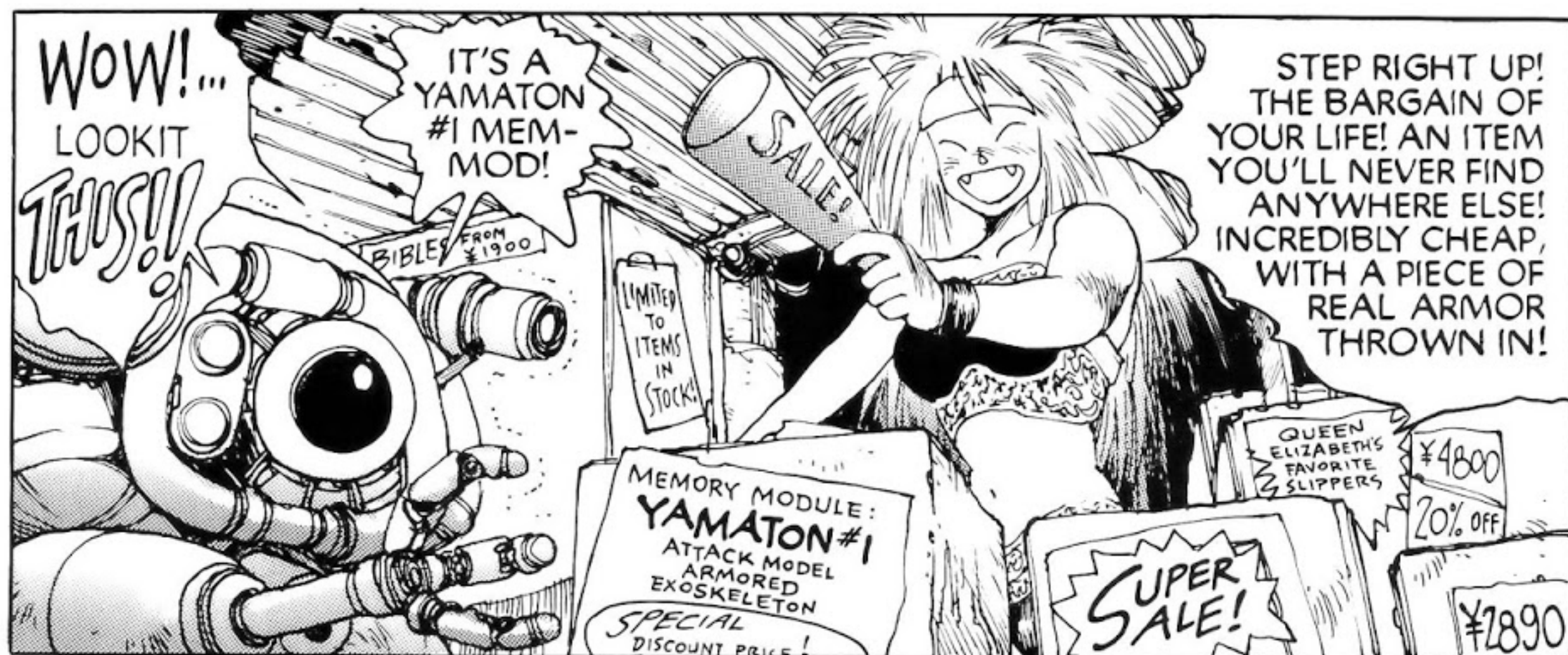
WILL DO.

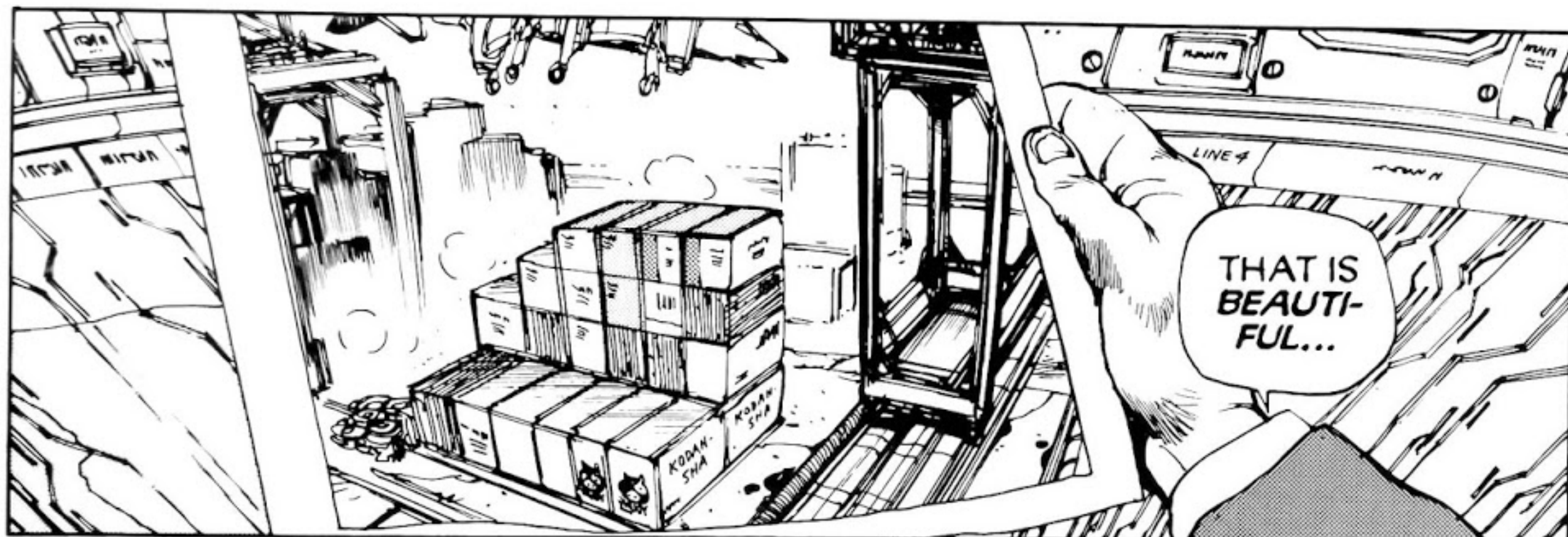
♪ AULD LANG SYNE... ♪

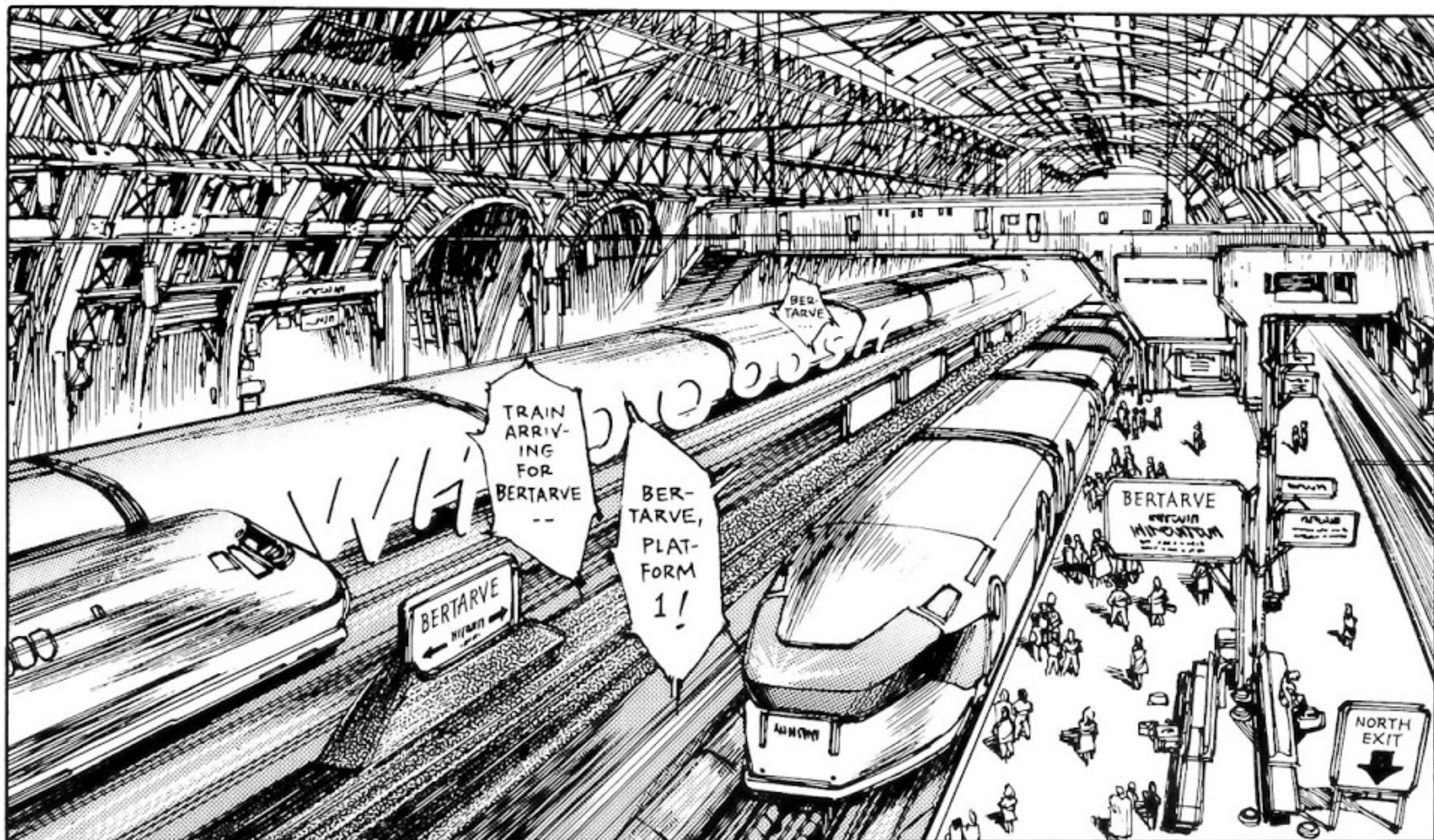


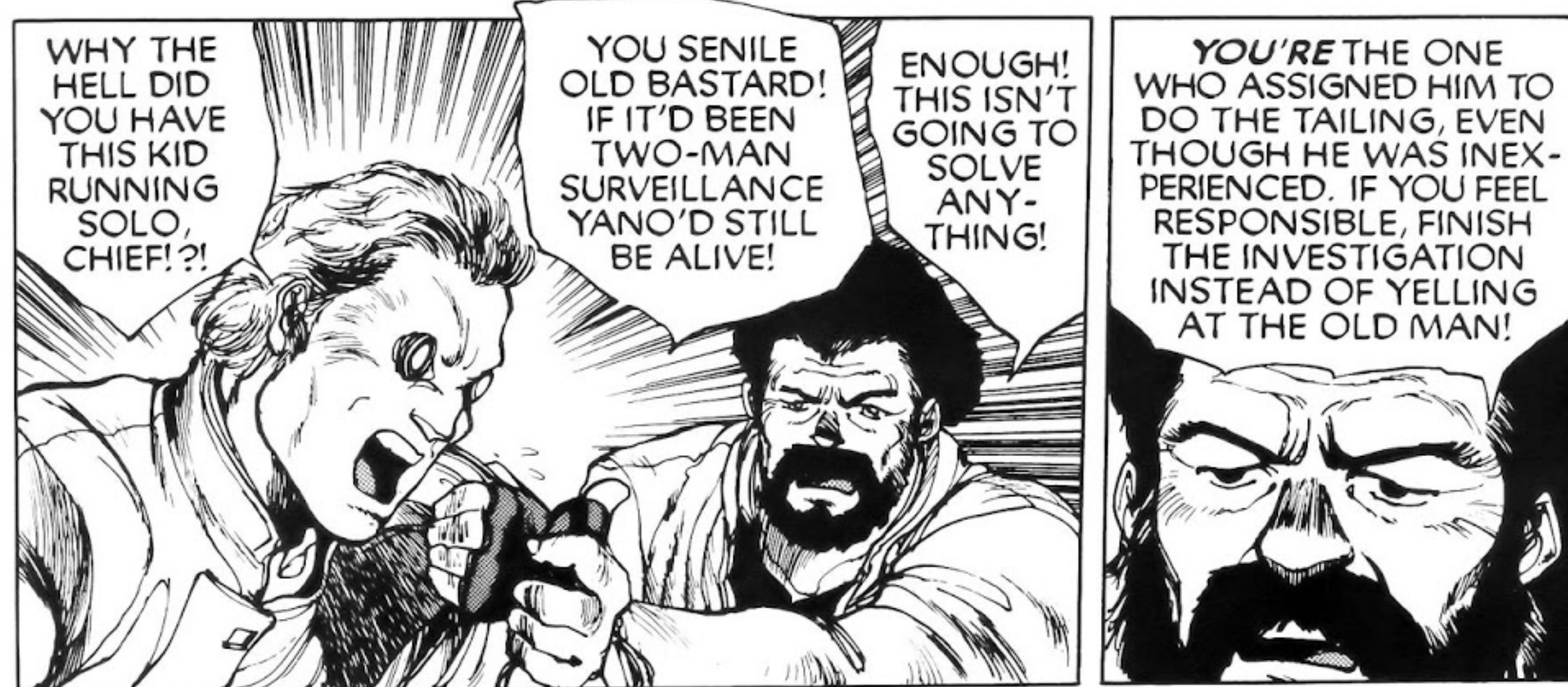


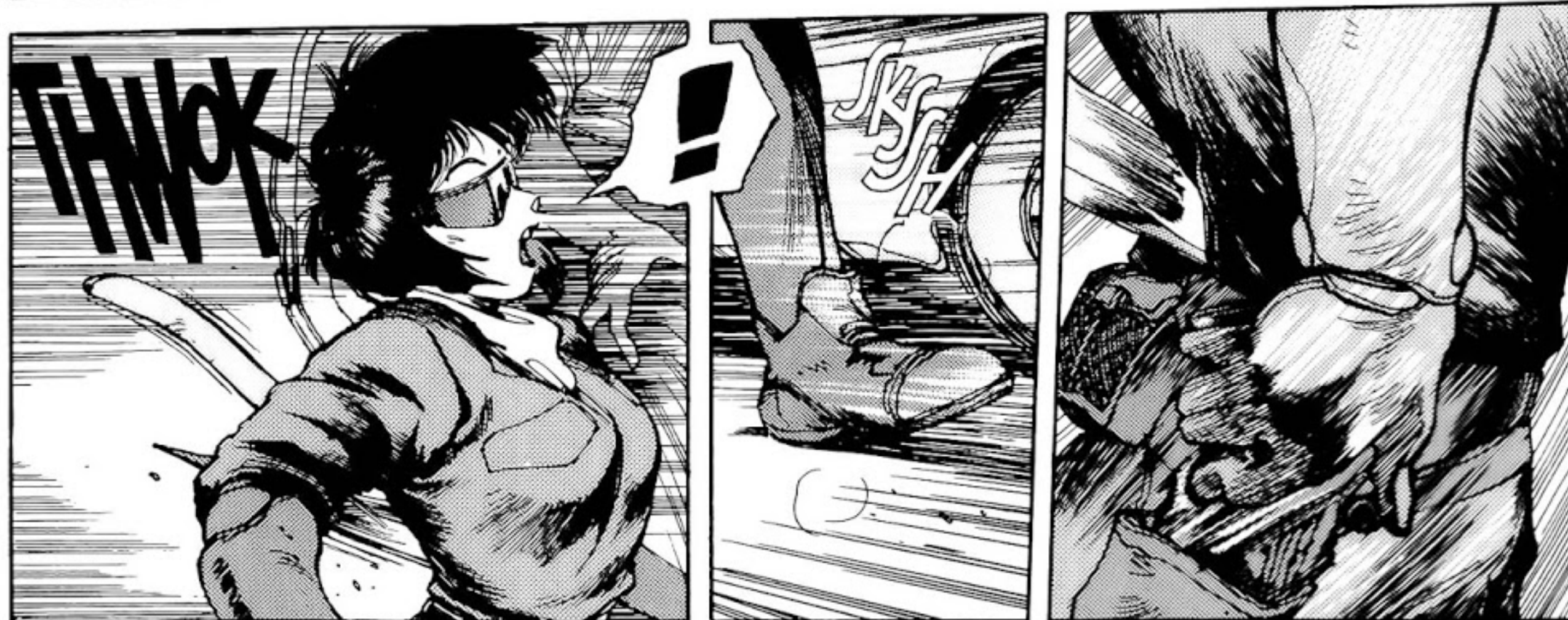
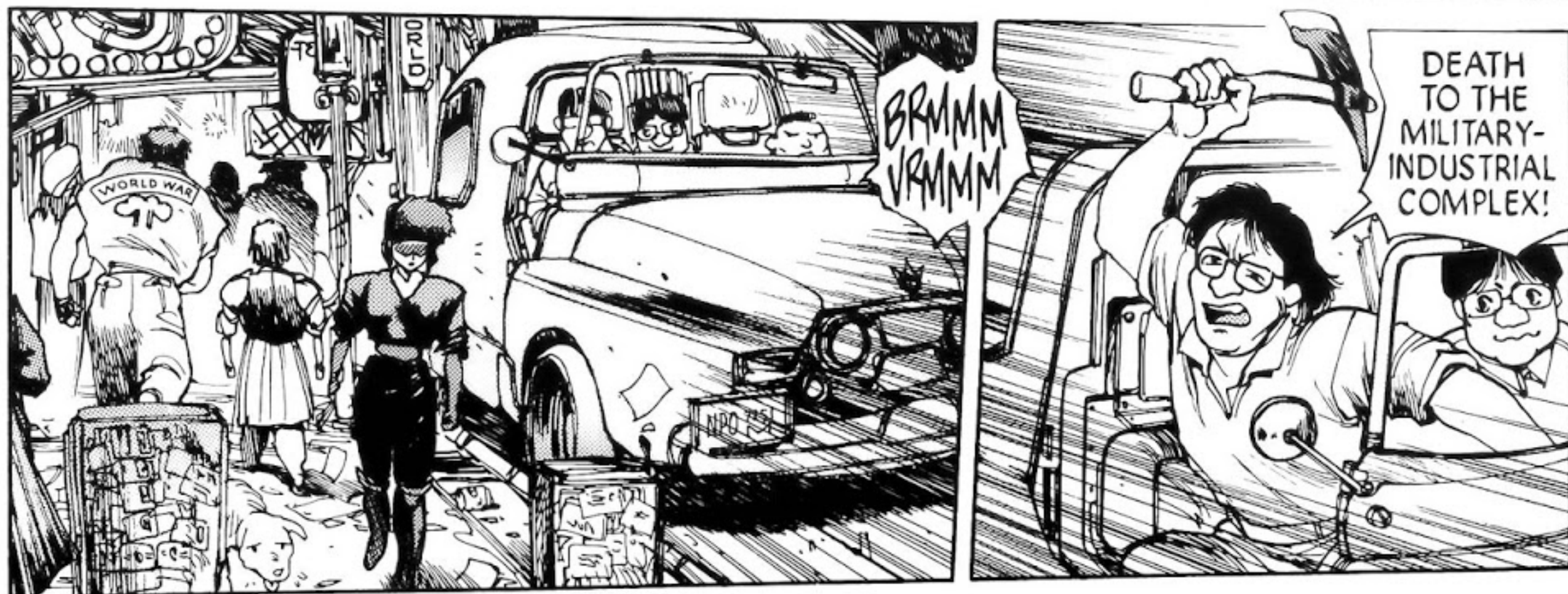






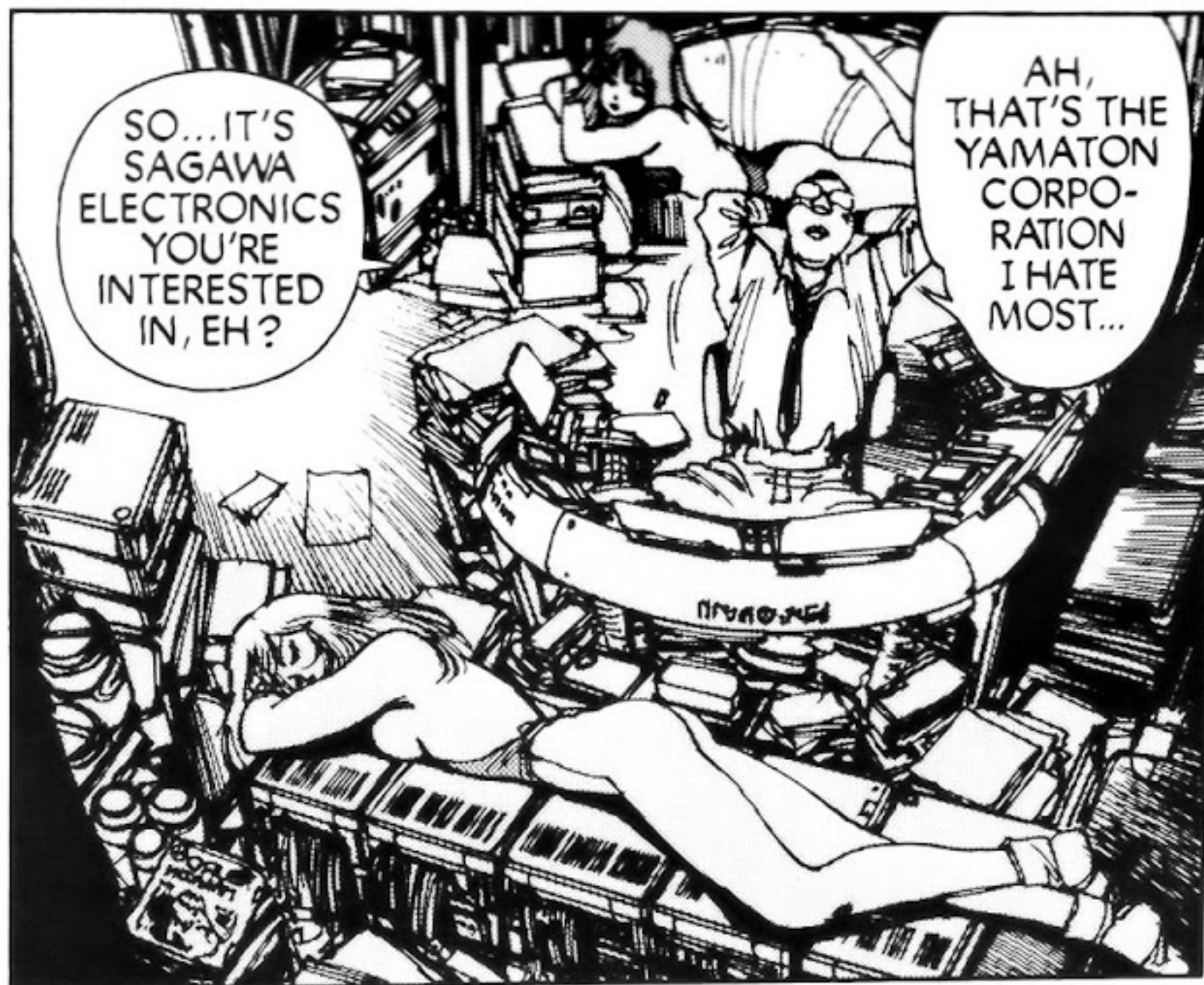












SO...IT'S
SAGAWA
ELECTRONICS
YOU'RE
INTERESTED
IN, EH?

AH,
THAT'S THE
YAMATON
CORPO-
RATION
I HATE
MOST...



THEY WERE
THE FIRST
AND BIGGEST
VULTURES TO
SWOOP IN
HERE WHEN
THE SOVIETS
RETURNED
THE
NORTHERN
ISLANDS...

FRANKLY,
MY FRIENDS
AND I
DON'T EVEN
RECOGNIZE
A "RETURN"
THAT EXCLUDES
ALL THOSE
MILITARY
BASES...



SURE, I KNOW THE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
COALITION HAD INTRO-
DUCED A FAILED TAX
POLICY, THAT THERE WAS A
PUBLIC REACTION TO IT,
AND THAT THE OPPOSITION
JUST HAPPENED TO NEED
SOME SORT OF "EVENT"
TO GAIN POWER...

...I ALSO KNOW
THE SOVIETS WANTED
CLOSER LINKS TO JAPAN
BECAUSE THEIR ENTRY
INTO THE EC MARKET
THROUGH THE GERMAN
CONNECTION HADN'T
PRODUCED THE HOPED-
FOR ECONOMIC
BENEFITS...



OH, YEAH,
AND THE MOSLEMS
HAD SLOWLY
BEEN APPLYING
PRESSURE ON
THE SOVIETS
FROM THE
SOUTH...

AH,
HERE
WE GO!
ACCESS!



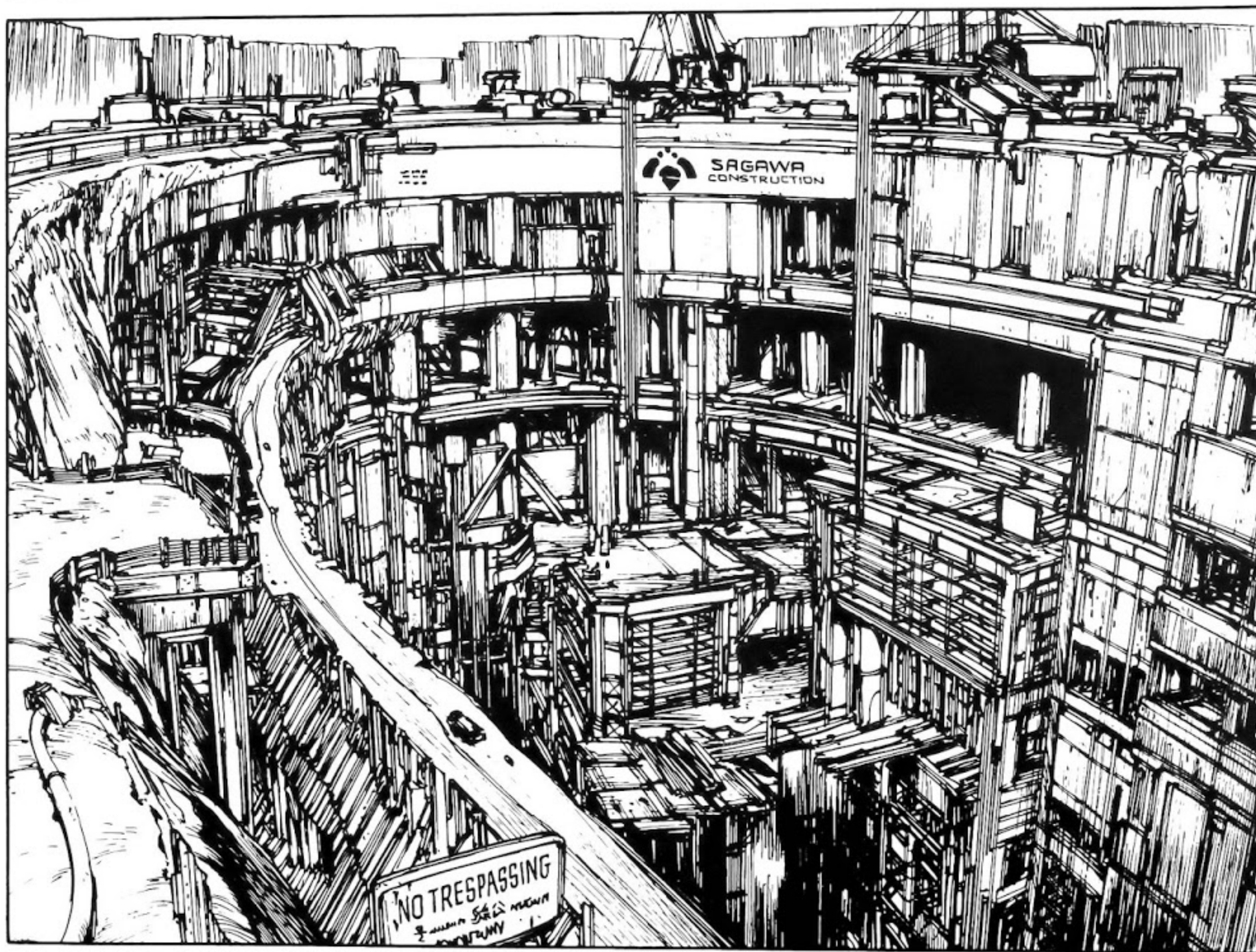
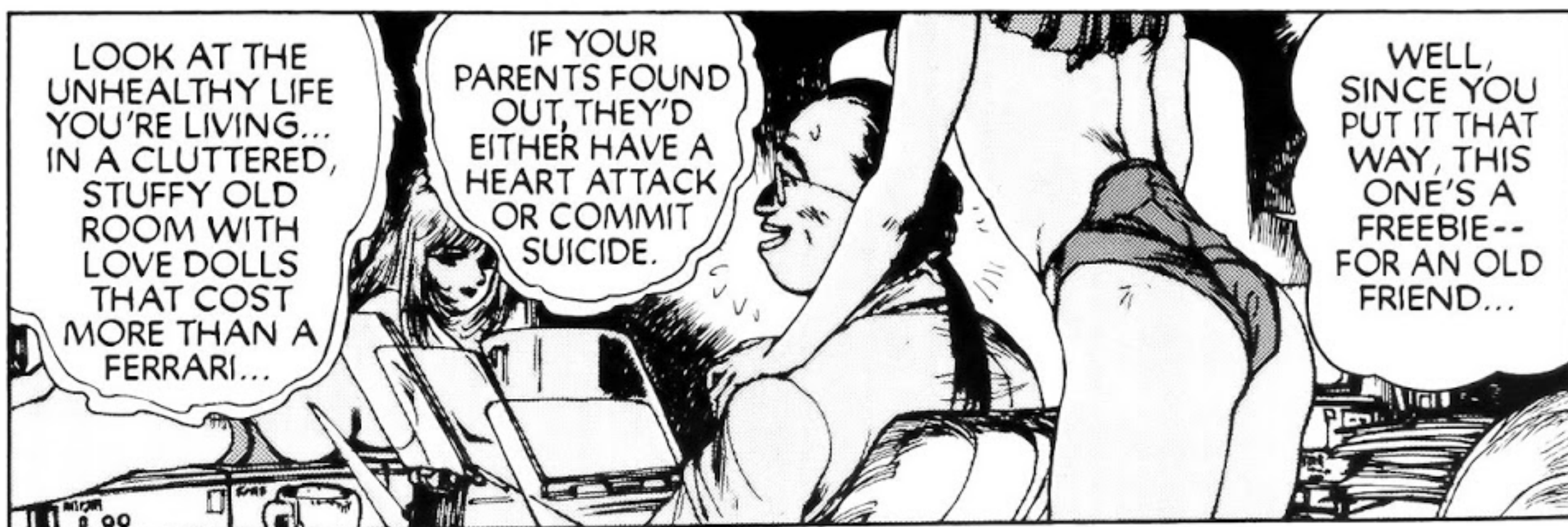
OKAY, GOT
A DIRECT LINK
TO THE HEAD
OF SECURITY'S
BRAIN AT
SAGAWA
ELECTRONICS
HEADQUAR-
TERS.

SO, YOU
WANT A
MAP OF
THE SECUR-
ITY NET?
AN ALL-
AREAS
PASS
CARD?



KROLDEN,
YOU SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
QUIT YOUR
JOB AT THE
CABINET PR
OFFICE...

THAT A
COMPLI-
MENT?



*: A DEEP SUBTERRANEAN DEVELOPMENT

